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BRITISH COLUMBIA
FISHERY COMMISSION
REPORT
1892



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REPORT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERY COMMISSION.

To the Honourable CHARLES H. TUPPER,
Minister of Marine and Fisheries,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the report of the Chairman of the British Columbia Fishery Commission, which contains the following matter:—

(1.) Introductory résumé of the growth of the salmon fisheries of the province, with statistics of their development, and values from 1876 to 1891.

(2.) Reference to the appointment of the Dominion Superintendent of Fish Culture in 1890 to examine into the salmon fisheries of the Fraser River.

(3.) Reference to the appointment, by Order in Council of 23rd December, 1891, of three Commissioners to further investigate and report upon necessary fishery regulations relating to the salmon and other fisheries of British Columbia, consisting of the Hon. D. W. Higgins, Mr. Sheriff Armstrong and Samuel Wilmot, Esq., with a brief reference to their work.

(4.) The Chairman's remarks in relation to the proceedings, and the conclusions arrived at by the Commissioners at their final meeting at New Westminster on the 19th March, 1892.

(5.) Copies of the Fishery regulations in force in British Columbia prior to the appointment of the Commission on the 23rd December, 1891.

(6.) Copies of the additional regulations, over and above those just mentioned, which are now in force in British Columbia.

(7.) Copy of the regulations as carried by the Commission and recommended to be adopted by the Department of Marine and Fisheries for the better preservation of the salmon and other fisheries in British Columbia.

(8.) The minutes of the proceedings in detail, together with the evidence taken under oath from fishermen, cannerymen, dealers and others interested in the fisheries of British Columbia.

(9.) Minutes of discussion at the final meeting of the Commissioners, for considering the evidence and forming a code of regulations thereon for submission to the Honourable Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

(10.) Copy of the code of regulations so adopted by the unanimous votes of the Commissioners or otherwise.

(11.) Copy of a minority report by the Hon. Mr. Higgins, in relation to some of the regulations.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. SMITH,
Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERY COMMISSION.

REPORT

OF

MR. SAMUEL WILMOT,
CHAIRMAN.

(1.) INTRODUCTORY.

The regulation and supervision of the fisheries of British Columbia, particularly the very important salmon fishing industries on the Fraser River and other inland waters, have for some years past been objects of much solicitude to the department, but owing to a variety of causes the regulations from time to time adopted as best suited for the conservation of these important sources of wealth to the community, have not met with that endorsement and approval on the part of those most interested in their preservation as had naturally been expected. Delegations waited upon the Minister, and petitions were from time to time received from the canning companies representing the necessity of rescinding or amending these regulations and substituting others, many of them in direct opposition to the recommendations and reports of the local officers of the department in the province. Hence the desire of all parties for the appointment of a Commission to investigate and take evidence on all matters appertaining to the fisheries of the Pacific province, in order that the department might formulate regulations for the control of the different fisheries, upon data obtained through an uninterested and unbiassed medium.

Before detailing the work of the Commission which was appointed, a short résumé of the growth of the principal provincial fisheries may not be out of place here.

The fisheries of British Columbia have, ever since the first explorers and traders visited the country, been noted for their wonderful extent and richness; and the annual migrations of the salmon in such immense numbers, up the rivers from the sea to the spawning grounds, have been a source of never-failing interest to travellers and others who have seen them in countless thousands, during the summer months, pushing up stream, overcoming all obstacles, in obedience to that instinctive law of nature which compels them to seek suitable localities for the reproduction of their species.

From time immemorial the aborigines looked upon the season of the arrival of the salmon as their grand harvest, and immense quantities were annually taken and preserved for use during the interval of winter, and that long period during which, although fish were always present in the streams, yet they were not caught with the same facility as during the great runs of "saw-kay," or red salmon, in the months of July and August.

Notwithstanding the improvident and reckless modes of fishing practised by the Indians, and though the quantities of fish caught by them were in the aggregate large, still, comparatively speaking, they were very small indeed to the numbers which formed the great salmon runs that yearly passed up river to the spawning grounds.

Following the gradual settlement of the country, fishing operations, more or less extensive, were inaugurated, and the white man's ingenuity taking the place of the crude methods of the Indians, advantage was soon taken of this great source of wealth and food which the rivers of the province, and especially the Fraser River, provided at their doors.

At first the market for these fish was much restricted, the settlement being sparse, and the absence of any suitable means of communication with the outside world precluded any attempts at export of a product which in quantity far exceeded the requirements of the local demands.

In the States of the Union to the south of the International Boundary, however, where the same profusion of fish wealth abounded, the preservation and shipment of fresh fish in cans had been successfully accomplished, and the industry of preparing canned salmon and shipping it to foreign markets, had been initiated, and was well under way, with excellent prospects of remunerative success, when in 1876 this business was established on the Fraser River, by the erection of two small canneries, whose pack that year aggregated 7,247 cases (one case consists of 48 one-pound cans).

From this small beginning in 1876, the salmon canning industry has grown to one of the first magnitude, the pack of salmon in the Province of British Columbia in the year 1889 amounting to 419,211 cases, representing a value of \$2,414,655. This was the product of thirty canneries, of which sixteen were operating on the Fraser River. In the following year, 1890, owing to a depreciated market, due largely to the competition of Alaskan canneries, the output was not so large, being only 414,500 cases, valued at \$2,387,519, and in 1891, with thirty-eight canneries in operation, of which twenty-two were on the Fraser River, the salmon pack only reached the total of 316,054 cases, the value of which was placed at \$1,517,060. In explanation of this falling off, however, it may be mentioned that owing to a glut in the European market, consequent on the large packs put up by the canneries in the two preceding years, not as many fish were taken as might otherwise have been the case. The Fisheries Inspector for British Columbia, however, reported that, had the canneries desired to do so, fully 625,000 cases might have been obtained. A drop in the price of canned salmon from 12 to 10 cents per one-pound tin also largely accounts for the decrease in value of the product of 1891, under that of the years previous.

From the two small canneries in 1876, employing only about 100 persons, the industry has expanded to the extent that in 1891 there were over 6,500 persons employed directly by the canneries, and the number of other persons indirectly benefited correspondingly large.

But while the salmon fishery and canning industry is the most important as yet of the fisheries of the Pacific province, they are by no means the only ones of value—the herring, halibut, oulachon, sturgeon and rock cod all being of prime importance, and but awaiting a corresponding development to show excellent returns for the labour and outlay requisite for their capture and treatment.

The halibut fishery has attracted considerable attention during the past two years, and valuable fishing banks, richly stocked with this commercial fish have been discovered, and though not as yet worked with much vigour, considerable quantities have already been shipped in ice to the eastern cities of Canada and the United States, and notwithstanding the many transportation difficulties and drawbacks, the prices realized give promise of a large increase in the business, and a corresponding benefit to the province in the early future. In 1890 the value of halibut captured and used fresh was placed at \$31,840 for 636,800 lbs., and in 1891 the catch had increased to 1,130,000 lbs., valued at \$56,500.

The total value of the fisheries of the province for 1890 was reported by the Inspector at \$3,481,432.29.

(2.) In 1890 Mr. Samuel Wilmot, Supt.-General of Fish Culture for the Dominion, acting under instructions from the department, paid an official visit to the Fraser River during the height of the salmon fishing season and made an inspection of most of the different canning establishments on the Fraser River, which were at that time in full operation.

The run of salmon in 1890 was very heavy and the opportunity afforded the inspecting officer to obtain a full and comprehensive view of the conduct of fishery matters upon the Fraser River was very favourable. Mr. Wilmot's report to the Government was adopted and published in the annual report of the department for 1890. The report, however, produced much criticism from many of the salmon cannerymen, and their agents, who complained bitterly of the representations which were made by Mr. Wilmot regarding the wholesale destruction of fish and the universal custom which prevailed of throwing all offal from the canning establishments in the river contrary to law, as well as the conclusions arrived at generally in his report.

(3.) With a view of determining the accuracy of this report, as well as obtaining data and information on many other points respecting the river and deep sea fisheries of the province of which, until Mr. Wilmot's report was made, the department had previously been uninformed, a Minute of Council, based upon the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, was approved on the 23rd of December, 1891, appointing a Commission consisting of Hon. D. W. Higgins, M.P.P., Speaker of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly, Wm. Armstrong, Esq., Sheriff of New Westminster, B.C., and Samuel Wilmot, Esq., Superintendent of Fish Culture for Canada, "to inquire into and report upon the Fisheries and Fishery Regulations in the Province of British Columbia."

Mr. Charles F. Winter, of the headquarter staff of the Fisheries Department, was detailed for duty and accompanied the Commission as secretary.

The Commission was convened and held its first session at the Court House in New Westminster, B.C., on the 19th February, 1892, Mr. Samuel Wilmot being elected chairman, and proceeded at once to take sworn evidence from day to day and hear testimony from the actual fishermen and other interested parties in regard to all matters affecting the fishery interests of the province.

On 2nd March an adjournment was made to Victoria, where sessions were held daily in the rooms of the Civic Board of Trade until the 10th March, when the Commission adjourned to Nanaimo and held meetings in the town hall there; from thence

the Commission went to Vancouver ; and then again to New Westminster, where the final meeting of the Commissioners was held on the 19th of March to consider and draw up their report and recommendations to the department.

But previous to this a trip by steamer down the Fraser River to the open waters of the Gulf of Georgia was taken by the Commission to obtain personal knowledge regarding the location and surroundings of the several canneries and other fishery establishments on the river.

The work of the Commission throughout was very considerable, as will be seen by the minutes of proceedings which show that the number of witnesses examined before the Commission was 112. Of these 71 and a delegation from the New Westminster Board of Trade, were heard in New Westminster, 20 in Victoria, 7 in Nanaimo, and 14 in Vancouver.

Whilst the great majority of the witnesses were actual fishermen, there were also cannerymen, their agents, and others interested directly in the fishing industries, and many others also of different occupations who volunteered their evidence, and in most cases, owing to the long residence of these parties in the province and their varied fishing experiences in all parts of the Pacific coast, their testimony was found to be most valuable.

An analysis of the occupations and callings of the witnesses will be found in the minutes hereto appended.

Much, if not the greater portion, of the value attaching to the evidence adduced at the various sessions of the Commission was by reason of the length of time the witnesses have been in British Columbia, during which their experience had led them to form their opinions and views more accurately in regard to the subjects under investigation. Their names and periods of residence will also be found in the minutes attached.

The witnesses were all British subjects, 85 of them being natives of the British Isles, Canada and Australia, while the remainder claimed various countries as their birthplace. With the exception of two native Indians and a naturalized Italian all understood and spoke English, and with these exceptions an interpreter was not required.

(4.) The undersigned further submits the following particulars as the result of the deliberations of this Commission, together with the report and final decision which the Commissioners arrived at, in forming the series of fishery regulations which were recommended to be adopted by the Marine and Fisheries Department. These conclusions and the regulations submitted were formed upon the basis of the large amount of evidence which was taken in the leading cities of British Columbia, where the principal fishing operations were carried on, and where the larger proportion of the practical fishermen resided.

The proceedings connected with this investigation were free and open in every particular, as it was deemed expedient by the Commission to allow the utmost freedom of expression of the views of the actual, and practical fishermen, as well as of the cannerymen, and all others who were interested in the fishing industries of British Columbia.

When the Commissioners' sittings were closed to the public, and after all available evidence had been taken under oath, the three Commissioners met by appointment, at the city of New Westminster, on the 19th March last, when a draft of regulations was

submitted for consideration and discussion, with the view to making any alterations or amendments thereto before their final adoption and submission to the Honourable Minister of Marine and Fisheries at Ottawa.

By a reference to the minutes of proceedings will be found each of the regulations, No. 1 to 24, which were fully discussed by all of the Commissioners, and in the main almost unanimously agreed to, excepting a few clauses on which the Honourable Mr. Higgins voted nay, and others which he asked further time to consider.

The twenty-four regulations as agreed to, *pro* and *con*, will be found hereto attached, which the Commissioners adopted by the following expression of opinion:

"The above sections from 1 to 24 were duly considered by this Commission and the record of their unanimous adoption, or otherwise, is agreed to by the Commissioners by their signatures which are hereto attached."

(Sgd.)

"SAMUEL WILMOT,
Chairman.

"W. J. ARMSTRONG,

"D. W. HIGGINS,

"Commissioners."

For the more easy and ready comprehension of the lengthy evidence taken under oath, which covers upwards of one thousand pages of type-written matter, the analysis of the evidence will be found in the minutes of proceedings, showing the number of witnesses, their residence, their occupation, their nationality, together with the names of the witnesses and the pages where their evidence is to be found.

There is also a minority report attached, given in by the Honourable Mr. Higgins, bearing date 29th March last, which embodies his views for dissenting from some of the clauses which were carried by the majority votes of the Commission. This minority report will be found appended to the majority report at the end of the minutes of proceedings.

Satisfactory reference is here made with regard to the conduct and efficiency of Mr. Chas. F. Winter, who acted as secretary to the Commission, and also as the sworn stenographer and type-writer, in taking and recording all evidence, the fulness and accuracy of which is highly commendable.

The several meetings of the Commission in the various cities in which they were held in British Columbia created much interest, and were uniformly well attended, and gratefully acknowledged on the part of the fishermen and other inhabitants as a boon granted to them by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, to look into the actual position of the salmon fisheries on the Fraser River and elsewhere in British Columbia.

It may be said, however, that the number of witnesses examined, represented a portion only of the public who were interested, and largely attended the meetings of the Commission from day to day. The local press also gave prominence to the matters under consideration, and with the exception of one or two of the meetings only, in the city of Victoria, the utmost satisfaction and harmony prevailed.

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL WILMOT,

Chairman, British Columbia Fishery Commission.

P.S.—With the view to a better understanding of the position of the fishery regulations as applied to the salmon fisheries in British Columbia, prior to the appointment of the Commission, and as they are at present, the several regulations as they now stand will be found hereto attached.

S. W.

REGULATIONS IN FORCE RELATING TO SALMON FISHERIES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA PRIOR TO THE APPOINTMENT OF THE FISHERIES COMMISSION ON THE 23RD DECEMBER, 1891.

SALMON FISHING.

1. Fishing by means of nets or other apparatus without leases or licenses from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, is prohibited in all waters of the Province of British Columbia.

Provided always, that Indians shall at all times have liberty to fish for the purpose of providing food for themselves, but not for sale, barter or traffic, by any means other than with drift nets or spearing.

2. Meshes of nets used for capturing salmon shall be at least five and three-quarter inches extension measure, and nothing shall be done to practically diminish their size: provided always that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries may order larger meshes to be used at such times and places as may be in his opinion necessary for the protection of the fisheries.

3. (a.) Drifting with salmon nets shall be confined to tidal waters, and no salmon net of any kind shall be used for salmon in fresh waters.

(b.) Drift nets shall not be used so as to obstruct more than one-third of any river.

(c.) Fishing for salmon shall be discontinued from 6 o'clock p.m. on Saturday to 6 o'clock p.m. on the following Sunday, and during such close time no nets or other fishing apparatus shall be set or used so as to impede the free course of fish, and all nets or other fishing apparatus set or used otherwise shall be deemed to be illegally set and shall be liable to be seized and forfeited, and the owner or owners or persons using the same shall be liable to the penalties and costs imposed by the Fisheries Act.

(d.) The use of seines for the purpose of catching salmon is prohibited in the waters of British Columbia.

4. (a.) Before any salmon net, fishing boat or other fishing apparatus shall be used, the owner or persons interested in such net, fishing boat or fishing apparatus shall cause a memorandum in writing setting forth the name of the owner or person interested, the length of the net, boat or other fishing apparatus and its intended location to be filed with the Inspector of Fisheries, who, if no valid objection exists, may, in accordance with instructions from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, issue a fishery license for the same, and any net, fishing boat or fishing apparatus used before such license has been obtained, and any net, fishing boat or fishing apparatus used in excess or evasion of the description contained in such license shall be deemed to be illegal and liable to forfeiture, together with the fish caught therein, and the owner or person using the same shall be also subject to fine and costs under the Fisheries Act.

(b.) All salmon nets and fishing boats shall have the name of the owner or owners legibly marked on two pieces of wood or metal attached to the same, and such mark shall be preserved on such nets or fishing boats during the fishing season in such manner as to be visible without taking up the net or nets; and any net or fishing boat used without such mark shall be liable to forfeiture.

5. (a.) The Minister of Marine and Fisheries shall from time to time determine the number of boats, seines, or nets, or other fishing apparatus to be used in any of the waters of British Columbia.

(b.) The total number of licenses for salmon fishing in the Fraser River shall be limited to 500, and of this number 350 shall be allotted among the canneries in operation on the Fraser River in the season of 1890, the allotment thereof to be based, in the cases of the old canneries, upon their average respective packs of the last three seasons, and in those of new canneries upon the estimate of the Inspector of Fisheries of the reasonable working capacity of such new canneries.

For all licenses up to twenty, inclusive, a fee of twenty dollars each shall be charged, and for any number in excess of twenty which, under the proposed allotment any cannery may be entitled to take up, a fee of \$50 for each license shall be charged. Should any of the 350 licenses above referred to remain unissued, they shall be allotted on the basis already stated, to the canneries applying therefor, at a fee of \$50 for each license, and in cases there should not be a sufficient number to permit of this being alone, they may be issued by the Inspector of Fisheries, in such manner as he deems equitable upon payment of the last-mentioned fee; the remaining 150 licenses to be issued at \$5 per license to the proprietors of freezers on the river and to fishermen, as the Minister of Marine and Fisheries may authorize, no fisherman, however, to receive more than one license.

No one shall fish for, catch or kill trout from the 15th October to 15th March, both days inclusive in each year. Provided always that Indians may, at any time, catch or kill trout for their own use, but not for the purpose of sale or traffic.

FISH OFFAL.

Fish offal, or any other deleterious substances shall not be thrown into or allowed to pass into, or remain in any water, or river or stream—nor shall sawdust or mill rubbish be drifted or thrown into any stream frequented by fish in British Columbia—See sec. 14, Fisheries Acts.

The following regulations for the salmon fisheries of British Columbia are in addition to the above and are now in force in that province:—

REGULATION OF JUNE 1, 1892.

1. That all *bona fide* fishermen, being British subjects and actual residents of the province, shall be entitled to obtain one (1) license to fish, upon payment of the sum of \$20 for such license.
2. That each freezing establishment, actually engaged in the freezing and exporting of fish, shall be entitled to obtain not exceeding seven (7) licenses, and that the fee for each license shall be \$20.
3. That each establishment engaged in the actual business of shipping or exporting fish in ice, or otherwise, but not in the manner of freezing or canning, shall be entitled to obtain not exceeding three (3) licenses, at a fee of \$20 each license.
4. That each and every local trader or dealer in fish for home consumption, in cities, towns, or country, actually engaged in such traffic, shall be entitled to obtain not exceeding two (2) licenses, at a fee of \$20 each license.
5. That salters and smokers of fish who carry on this specialty in curing fish for domestic or foreign markets, and not engaged in the fishing business in any other way, may be entitled to obtain two licenses upon the payment of a fee of \$20 for each license.
6. That every actual resident settler (with his family residing with him) shall be entitled to obtain one (1) license to fish, upon payment of \$2 for the same; and shall be permitted to fish in any of the waters of British Columbia, except in any prescribed limits at the mouths of rivers or streams, or during the close times; every such settler shall be a British subject, and such license will only permit of fishing for family use, but not for sale or barter.
7. That each canning establishment, actually carrying on the canning industry, shall be entitled to receive twenty boat licenses to fish as its maximum number; and that the fee payable for each such license shall be \$20, to apply everywhere alike throughout the province.
8. All the persons so mentioned in all of the above sections as entitled to receive licenses shall be *bona fide* resident British subjects and the actual proprietors of the business for which the licenses are obtained.
9. That all licenses so obtained shall not be transferable under any conditions whatever, without the consent in writing from the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

COPY OF THE REGULATIONS, 1 TO 24, RECOMMENDED BY THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES COMMISSION TO BE CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE AND FISHERIES OF CANADA.

From the evidence taken under oath from numerous parties in relation to the subject of the fisheries at the cities of New Westminster, Victoria, Vancouver and Nanaimo, the following conclusions were come to on the subjects contained in the several paragraphs herein, which are numbered from 1 to 24, and are recommended to be adopted by the Fisheries Department of Canada, for the conservation and maintenance of the fishing industries of the Province of British Columbia. The recommendations are as follows :

1. That each canning establishment, actually carrying on the canning industry, shall be entitled to receive eighteen boat licenses to fish as its maximum number ; and that the fee payable for each such license shall be \$20.

2. That each freezing establishment, actually engaged in the freezing and exporting of fish, shall be entitled to obtain not exceeding seven licenses, and that the fee for each license shall be \$20.

3. That each establishment engaged in the actual business of shipping or exporting fish in ice, or otherwise, but not in the manner of freezing or canning, shall be entitled to obtain not exceeding three licenses, at a fee of \$20 each license.

4. That each and every local trader or dealer in fish for home consumption, in cities, towns, or country, actually engaged in such traffic, shall be entitled to obtain not exceeding two licenses, at a fee of \$20 each license.

5. That all *bonâ fide* fishermen, being British subjects and actual residents of the province, shall be entitled to obtain one license to fish, upon payment of the sum of \$20 for such license.

6. That every actual resident settler (with his family residing with him) shall be entitled to obtain one license to fish, upon payment of \$2 for the same ; and shall be permitted to fish in any of the waters of British Columbia, except in any prescribed limits at the mouths of rivers or streams, or during the close times ; every such settler shall be a British subject, and such license will only permit of fishing for family use, but not for sale or barter.

7. That the regular annual close time for salmon fishing in any of the rivers or streams of British Columbia shall be from the 1st October to the 1st March following in every year.

That the weekly close time for fishing for salmon or other fish in the waters of British Columbia shall be from 6 o'clock a.m. on every Saturday till 12 o'clock midnight on the following Sunday.

8. That the limitation for the size of mesh of salmon nets and the period in which such sized nets shall be used, shall be as follows :—

A net with a $7\frac{3}{4}$ inch mesh for capturing spring salmon to be used from 1st March to 15th August. A net with a mesh not less than $5\frac{3}{4}$ inch mesh for sockeye, coho or other salmon, may be used only between 1st July and 1st October.

The above meshes are extension measure.

9. That all licenses so obtained shall not be transferable under any conditions whatever, without the consent in writing from the Department of Fisheries.

10. That the tidal boundaries for all or any fishing for commercial purposes connected with canning, freezing, or exporting of salmon, shall be at Pitt River, and at a line across the Fraser River at Whonnack Creek :—above these two points on the Pitt and Fraser Rivers, netting or fishing for commercial purposes as above described, is forbidden.

11. The use of seines for capturing fish of any description is wholly forbidden at the mouths of all rivers or streams within certain limits thereof as may be laid down by the Department of Fisheries.

12. That there shall be no discrimination with regard to the numbers of licenses, nor the fees payable for the same, for canners, or others, throughout the waters of British Columbia.

13. That the throwing of fish offal or dead fish, saw-dust, mill rubbish, or any deleterious substance into the rivers, or other waters frequented by fish, is alike injurious to these waters and to the inhabitants residing along the same; and therefore the laws relating to the prevention of offal and deleterious substances being thrown into such waters should be enforced in the interests of the community at large.

14. That it would be expedient, for the improvement of the fisheries in British Columbia, that additional fish hatcheries to the one now in existence should be built in well selected localities on the upper branches of the Fraser River, the evidence before this Commission being largely given in this line.

15. That the great destruction of herring now practised to supply a few crude oileries on the coast and elsewhere, should be prevented by departmental enactments, and thus avoid the too great and rapid depletion of an important factor as bait for carrying on the deep sea fisheries of the British Columbian coast in the future.

16. That the halibut fisheries on the coast of British Columbia, now assuming great importance from the successes which have attended the catches lately made and their introduction into the markets of Boston and elsewhere on the Atlantic coast, demand the husbanding care of the Government for the advancement of this new industry which bids fair to give additional wealth to the inhabitants of British Columbia.

17. That the inclination on the part of the fishermen is to increase the killing capacity of the drift net by giving it greater depth than appears necessary for fairly legitimate fishing, and as the depth as shown now varies from 30 to 60 meshes, and in order to place all fishermen upon the same footing in their fishing operations, and to guard against too excessive destruction of the salmon, the drift net for sockeyes should be limited to a depth not exceeding 50 meshes.

18. That doubts having arisen with regard to the actual meaning of subsec. 8 of section 8, chap. 95 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, it is desirable in the interests of river fishing in British Columbia with reference to leaving portions of the river free from fishing, that not more than one-third of the river should be left open.

19. That the system now prevailing along the coast of killing vast numbers of dog-fish expressly for the use of the livers of said fish for oil purposes only, should be discontinued, unless the bodies of these fish are utilized in the same manner.

20. That salters and smokers of fish who carry on their specialty in curing fish for domestic or foreign markets, and not engaged in the fishing business in any other way, may be entitled to obtain two licenses upon the payment of a fee of \$20 for each license.

21. That a suggestion is made to the department for the advisability for further protection of the fisheries, that a sufficient number of additional guardians should be appointed, to enforce the fishery laws.

22. That it is expedient, in the interests of the Fraser River fisheries, that the early runs of the quinnat and sockeye salmon should be captured from which to obtain their ova for artificial breeding in the hatcheries.

23. That the introduction of shad, oysters and lobsters into the waters of British Columbia from the Atlantic coast, is most desirable, and that the Department of Fisheries be requested to institute such means as will bring about this most desirable enterprise.

24. That whereas the native oyster is found in some localities along the British Columbia coast, and as they are becoming rapidly decimated by the action of a few fishermen and Indians, regardless of consequences, it is desirable that the Fisheries Department should take speedy action to prevent their extermination by establishing proper close seasons, and encouraging persons who may be desirous of entering into the business of oyster culture.

NOTE.—The consideration and adoption of the above regulations from 1 to 24, together with discussion and votes taken thereon by the Commissioners, will be found in the minutes of proceedings hereto appended.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA SALMON FISHERIES COMMISSION

1892

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ANALYSIS OF WITNESSES HEARD BY THE COMMISSION.

At New Westminster there were heard	71	witnesses and a delegation from the New Westminster Board of Trade.
At Victoria there were heard	20	witnesses.
At Nanaimo do	7	do
At Vancouver do	14	do
In all	<u>112</u>	witnesses.

The great majority of these witnesses were persons of many years' residence in the province and their experience in connection with the fisheries extends over a considerable period, as appears from the following :—

25	witnesses had been residing in B.C. for 30 years and over.
16	do do over 20 years but under 30.
19	do do over 10 years but under 20.
21	do do over 5 years but under 10.
18	do do over 2 years but under 5.
1	do do under 1 year.
And 12	witnesses did not state their length of residence.

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By occupations the witnesses were divided as follows :—

Cannery managers and book-keepers	15
Fishermen	2
Farmers	50
Merchants and traders	7
Fish dealers (fresh fish)	7
Freezers	7
General merchant and cooper	2
Hotel-keeper	1
Master mariners	1
Physicians and surgeons	2
Indian Reserve Commissioner and Indian agents	6
Fishery officers	3
Civil engineer	3
Barrister 1, Chemist 1	1
Butcher 1, Accountant 1	2
Promoter of colonization companies	2

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The witnesses were all British subjects and were natives of the following places:—

England.....	29
Scotland.....	18
Ireland.....	3
Ontario.....	13
Quebec.....	1
Nova Scotia.....	6
New Brunswick.....	3
Prince Edward Island.....	2
British Columbia :	
Whites.....	3
Indians.....	2
Newfoundland.....	4
Australia.....	1
United States.....	5
Russia.....	3
France.....	1
Holland.....	1
Greece.....	2
Portugal.....	2
Norway and Sweden.....	4
Italy.....	2
Germany.....	1
Not given.....	6

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COMMISSION FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF MATTERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALMON FISHERIES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., 19th February, 1892.

First Day's Session.

The Commissioners appointed for the investigation of matters connected with the salmon fisheries of British Columbia, etc., met, by permission of the Honourable the Provincial Secretary, in the Court-house, New Westminster, at 2 o'clock p.m.

Present :

The Honourable D. W. Higgins, of Victoria, B.C. ; Sheriff W. J. Armstrong, of New Westminster, B.C. ; S. Wilnot, Esq., Superintendent of Fish Culture for the Dominion of Canada, and Mr. C. F. Winter, of Ottawa, secretary.

Upon request by Mr. Wilnot, the secretary read the Orders in Council appointing the Commission as follows :—

"CERTIFIED COPY of a Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, on the 25th of August, 1891.

"On a report dated 10th August, 1891, from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, stating that he has received a communication signed by all the representatives of the Province of British Columbia in the House of Commons, representing that fishery regulations, which may be well adapted to other provinces, are not always applicable to British Columbia, and urging the necessity of appointing a Commission for the purpose of collecting information on the subject of the existing regulations in British Columbia, and especially with regard to the alleged injurious effects of throwing fish offal into the water.

"The Minister, in connection with this matter, states, that during the course of an official inspection made last season, the Superintendent of Fish Culture ascertained that the practice of throwing offal in the water, although prohibited by the Fisheries Act, was general.

"It is deemed unnecessary here to deal at length with the injurious effects of such a practice, suffice it to say that it is universally condemned in England, as well as in other European countries. British Columbia canners, however, claim that it can do no harm to the salmon industry, as it is, they say, at once consumed by small fish or carried to the sea by the swift current in the Fraser River. But, on this point, the officers of the Fisheries Department are of opinion that such a condition is untenable, owing to the enormous quantity of refuse, amounting to no less than 8,733,000 lbs. each season.

"The Minister observes, that apart from this consideration, fully one-fourth of this considerable mass of fish matter, thus thrown away, consists of good wholesome food, wantonly destroyed and lost for human wants. This loss represents an equivalent of 277,489 salmon, which are thus allowed to go to waste and pollute the water. Most, if not the whole of this refuse could be profitably used for making fish-oil or guano, thus opening new fields to other industries. Settlers along the Fraser River also complain bitterly of the pollution caused by this offal and of the stench which arises therefrom.

"The Minister appends a memo. containing a synopsis of present and past regulations in force in British Columbia, together with such regulations as have been proposed but not adopted.

"The Minister, in view of certain peculiarities of the Pacific fisheries, their great value, and of the request on the part of members of Parliament, to which reference has

been made, recommends that a Commission, consisting of the undermentioned gentlemen, be appointed to inquire into and report upon the fisheries and fishery regulations in the Province of British Columbia, viz. :—Charles T. Dupont, Charles G. Major, and Samuel Wilmot, Esquires.

"The Committee submit the same for Your Excellency's approval.

(Sgd.) "JOHN J. McGEE,
"Clerk, Privy Council."

Messrs. Dupont and Major having signified their inability to act upon the Commission, the following minute of Council was subsequently approved by His Excellency, and which was also read by the secretary, as follows :—

"CERTIFIED COPY of a Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, on the 23rd of December, 1891.

"The Committee, on the recommendation of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, advise that the Order in Council of the 25th August, 1891, appointing Messrs. Charles T. Dupont, Charles G. Major and Samuel Wilmot, Commissioners to inquire into and report upon the Fisheries and Fishery Regulations of the Province of British Columbia, be cancelled.

"The Committee on the same recommendation advise that Mr. David W. Higgins, of Victoria, and Mr. William J. Armstrong, Sheriff of New Westminster, together with Mr. Samuel Wilmot, be appointed a Commission for the above-named purpose.

(Sgd.) "JOHN J. McGEE,
"Clerk, Privy Council."

The secretary then read a letter of instructions addressed by the Honourable Charles H. Tupper, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, to the Commissioners, and which was as follows :—

"OTTAWA, 27th January, 1892.

"GENTLEMEN,—By virtue of an Order in Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor-General on the 23rd December, 1891, you have been appointed Commissioners to inquire into and report upon the Fisheries and Fishery Regulations of the Province of British Columbia.

"I have directed that Mr. Charles F. Winter, Secretary to the Deputy Minister of Fisheries, should be detailed to act as secretary to your Commission.

"In view of Mr. Wilmot's position as Superintendent of Fish Culture in Canada, and his position in my department, I would be glad, should it meet with your approval, for him to act as chairman during your deliberations.

"It is desired by me that while you should be free to inquire into the subject of regulations generally for the fisheries of British Columbia, in such way as you deem best, all evidence or information offered you shall be, as far as possible, made part of the record of your proceedings. Mr. Winter, as a short-hand writer, will be able to take down such evidence as you may wish to hear. After you have acquired such information as you desire, I would be glad to have such draft regulations as you may agree upon, with such arguments as you have to offer in support of them, and if it is not possible for you to agree, I would be glad to have regulations from each, or any two of you, supported in the same way.

"While I am not at present authorized to pay out of the public funds more than the expenses which you may incur for the purposes of the inquiry, I may say to you that it is my intention to submit for the consideration of His Excellency in Council, when the Estimates for the next Session are taken up, an item covering a proper allowance to you, in the nature of an honorarium.

"I need not impress upon you the necessity for bringing your deliberations to a close as speedily as possible, though at the same time I have no desire that you should unduly hasten the work.

"I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

"Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.)

"CHARLES H. TUPPER."

It was then moved by Mr. Higgins, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, that Mr. Wilmot take the Chair.

Mr. Wilmot, on doing so, thanked his colleagues for their confidence, and explained that the Minister's suggestion was made in view not only of his (Mr. Wilmot's) long experience in connection with piscatorial matters, but also in case of the occasional absence from the sessions of the local Commissioners, he considered it would be better to have as presiding officer the Commissioner who would be quite sure to be present at all the sittings of the Commission.

Mr. Higgins and Mr. Armstrong concurred in this view.

Commissioners Higgins and Armstrong questioned the powers of the Commission under the Orders in Council read by the secretary, and considered a legal opinion as to their power to summon witnesses and administer oaths should be secured.

The secretary stated that he was aware the Minister had previously appointed Commissions by Order in Council, under authority of chap. 115 of the Revised Statutes, and by which witnesses were summoned and oaths administered.

It was agreed that the question should be referred to the legal firm of Corbould, McColl, Wilson & Campbell, for a decision as to the powers of the Commission, before proceeding to take evidence.

Upon the question of programme and the more particular matters to be taken up,—

Mr. Wilmot submitted a memo. of matters for investigation and upon which Mr. Tupper had made marginal notes. (Fisheries file No. 8478—'90). The points more particularly to be taken up were:—

(1.) Offal.

(2.) The limitation of number of nets in the Fraser River, their length and size of mesh.

(3.) Whether licenses, establishing the number of them which shall be given, to canners, to regular fishermen, to freezers and to settlers.

(4.) The close seasons, annual and weekly.

(5.) Fishing limits in the Fraser, shall they be reduced from what they are at present?

(6.) Shall licenses be granted only to resident British subjects, or to any person applying for them?

(7.) Whether a discrimination of fees for licenses should be made as between canners or other fishermen on the Fraser River, and those fishing on or at the estuaries of other rivers in British Columbia.

Mr. Armstrong stated that he also had been considering the matter to be inquired into and had drawn up a few questions in the line in which he thought inquiry should be made, and which he read to the Commission as follows:—

(1.) What depth of net should be allowed for fishing in the Fraser River?

(2.) Should fishing for canneries be allowed outside the mouth of the river?

(3.) Should the offal go into the river or be otherwise utilized?

(4.) Should all canneries have the same number of licenses?

(5.) How many licenses should each cannery have?

(6.) Should licenses be of a uniform price for canneries throughout the province?

(7.) Should any but British subjects of twelve months' standing have a license?

(8.) How many licenses should be issued to fishermen outside of canneries?

(9.) Should Indians have licenses to fish for the canneries, and if so, how many?

(10.) Should residents along the river who do not make fishing a business have licenses to fish, or should they be allowed to fish for their own consumption without a license?

(11.) What capacity are the canneries?

(12.) What does it cost during the average run of fish to put up a case of 48 one-pound tins—get details of expenditure.

The Commissioners agreed to conduct the inquiry upon the general lines embodied in both Mr. Armstrong's paper and the memo. of Mr. Wilmot.

On the question of "open" or "close" meetings,—

Mr. WILMOT.—"Well, the next question would be, shall the meetings be open to everybody and everything?"

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—"Yes, sir."

Mr. HIGGINS.—"Press and all?"

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—"Yes, sir, press and all, if these things need ventilation let them have it. If we close our meetings, then after we are done there would be sure to be a great cry about it and no matter how fair and honest we conducted the matter, we would be given no credit for it. I think it would be well to get all interested in canneries to give evidence, then take freezers and then fishermen; if we get canners, freezers and fishermen in here together we won't be able to keep them from talking and disputing."

Mr. WILMOT.—"Oh, well, we must keep order—no discussion must take place to interfere with what is going on before the Commission. The only thing in regard to the press is that if matters are under discussion here and it appears next morning perhaps different to what it really is, it would throw some discredit upon the investigation."

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—"Oh, but we are not discussing these matters with anybody else. We are getting answers to certain questions and then we will discuss the case and not before—at any rate that is my view."

Mr. WILMOT.—"Very well; but these interests of canners and fishermen are very conflicting. Now if some canners are present and some fishermen, would it not prevent the latter from giving that free and open evidence which otherwise they would give?"

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—"Well, if we find that anything like that occurs we can ask the gentlemen to withdraw, but I cannot consistently say I would have it with closed doors. What do you think, Mr. Higgins?"

Mr. HIGGINS.—"Well, I think it should not be altogether closed, except something like what Mr. Wilmot suggests should occur. I would prefer an open meeting—if we find such has any deterrent effect on any witnesses we can easily remedy it."

The Commission thereupon decided to sit with open doors.

After discussion and on formal motion of Mr. Higgins, it was decided that the hours of sitting of the Commission should be daily from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., and that the Commission sit this evening from 8 p.m. to 10.30 p.m., to take evidence—future evening sittings being determined daily.

The secretary being despatched for one of the members of the legal firm to whom it had been decided to refer the question of the powers of the Commission, returned with Mr. McColl (Corbould, McColl, Wilson & Campbell). Mr. McColl, after perusing the papers, stated that it was quite clear to him that the present Commission had full power, under authority of Chapter 115 to summon witnesses and administer oaths, and all persons so summoned were bound to appear and answer all questions submitted to them, and all parties so summoned and not appearing could be placed under arrest and tried for the offence. Mr. McColl also approved of a form of oath submitted by Mr. Wilmot and to be taken by all witnesses examined, and which was as follows:—

"I..... solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will truly answer all such questions as may be put to me and also give such information as may be within my personal knowledge to this Commission relating to the salmon or other fisheries of British Columbia now under consideration:

"So help me God."

Upon request of the chairman, Mr. Winter, the secretary of the Commission took the following oath:—

"In the matter of a certain Commission directed by an Order in Council dated 23rd December, 1891, directed to David W. Higgins, W. J. Armstrong, and Samuel

Wilmot, to inquire into and report upon the fisheries and fishery regulations in the Province of British Columbia, and in the matter of Chapter 115 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1886,

"I, Charles F. Winter, the stenographer appointed by the Minister of Marine to act as secretary in the matter of the above Commission, do make oath and say, that I will truly take down the evidence that may be given in above Commission and faithfully perform all the duties that may be required of me by said Commissioners to the best of my ability :

"So help me God."

Upon the question of issuing summons to witnesses, it was decided to accept all voluntary evidence first and not issue any summons unless in case of actual necessity.

The Chair having declared the Commission ready for the taking of evidence :—

JAMES WISE, of New Westminster, appeared and after being duly sworn :

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, gentlemen, we will proceed. Mr. Wise, have you any suggestions to offer or statement to make ?

WITNESS.—My principal object in coming here is this : This fishing business is a very mixed business—it is very dissatisfactory to a great many, and in fact two years ago when a farmer could not fish himself or let his sons do so, it was very near making a great deal of trouble—when the free people on the banks of the Fraser could not catch a fish at their own doors, why we might as well be in Russia or Ireland, or some other country of that description. (Laughter.) Then a telegram came to late Inspector Mowat to give licenses for \$2. I have not much other information to give you, but I would prefer answering questions if you will ask them upon any particular point you may require.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Are you in the fishing business ?

WITNESS.—No, not now. I sold out to Mr. Ewen four years ago. I had a plant that cost me \$4,000 and applied for licenses, but I could not get one. I was one of the first fishermen on the river, as both you gentlemen (to Messrs. Armstrong and Higgins) know, and worked the industry up from its infancy. I am not in the fishing business at present, but would like to go into it next season, but if I put money into plant and then cannot get a license, well, I don't want to have anything to do with it.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Have you ever been in the canning business ?

WITNESS.—I was in the cannery business ten years ago.

Mr. HIGGINS.—What is your opinion as to mesh of nets. Is the present mesh satisfactory ?

WITNESS.—Oh, yes, but I think nets are a secondary consideration ; you want nets here that will catch the fish and you must arrange it according to their size. The reason I make this remark as to size is that I have found spawn in a four-pound salmon and it was just as well fitted for spawning as that in larger salmon.

Mr. HIGGINS.—What do you think of catching fish in the mouth of the river ?

WITNESS.—It is very detrimental and stops fish from coming into the river. It stops them in this way, Mr. Higgins, it stops them when they are active and lively and in the prime of life, and they are held back until they are not in such good condition.

Mr. HIGGINS.—But are they not caught at the mouth of the river ?

WITNESS.—Yes, they are caught, but their course to the river is often deflected away and they go to other places and we lose the fish to that extent. I have seen Indians who have told me they have seen our fish going up to Comox and other rivers where they were not until some seven years ago. They are a very timid fish, but of course in the last extremity will go up notwithstanding all barricades, &c. The breeding time is exhausting to any animal or fish and all these bars which the fish try to pass must make them more weakened. Let the fish get into the river and they will not go back ; they will go on up and spawn. Then protect your spawning grounds properly—this, I think, is the great question.

Mr. HIGGINS.—What do you think about licenses ? Is the present system satisfactory ?

WITNESS.—Well, it may be partly satisfactory to a few, but it is only so to a small minority. There is nothing in any other part of Canada or the States where a monopoly

is given to the few like here. What we want here is a hardy class of industrious working people to come and settle here with their families. Many have come with their families but they could not get a license and then they are under the thumb of men who only give small pay, for they get Chinamen and Indians next to nothing. This system is driving away the best of our people. The only way you can keep them is to give them licenses.

MR. HIGGINS.—What change would you suggest?

WITNESS.—I think you should give a license to every British subject who applies for one. A man who puts up 100 or 200 brls. of salmon will help settle our country. If this plan was adopted this country would be settled thickly and it would drive out the Chinamen.

MR. HIGGINS.—You were one time, I think, largely in the pickling line?

WITNESS.—Yes, I have pickled and salted salmon and sent them to all parts of the world. I shipped salmon on the old "Dominion," probably you remember her. That was when I first sent to the Australian markets. I then went into partnership with Ewen & Wood and we bought out Mr. Legg and then sold out to Ewen.

MR. HIGGINS.—Where did you catch your fish?

WITNESS.—Well, I fished in the mouth of the river and away up above Ladner's.

MR. HIGGINS.—Where did you sell?

WITNESS.—Oh, I sold over here, not far away.

MR. HIGGINS.—Where did you clean your fish?

WITNESS.—On the bank of the river.

MR. HIGGINS.—Always on the bank of the river? Was it where the offal could go into the river?

WITNESS.—Yes, there was no other place to put it. There seems to be no idea but putting it in the river; still, it should be put elsewhere—it would be good to put on the land, would it not.

MR. HIGGINS.—They say not; that has been tried and found a failure years ago.

WITNESS.—Yes; it was tried, but the smell was most objectionable and it was a failure. Now, I think, if the offal was put in scows and carried out to deep water it would be at once carried away and give no trouble.

MR. HIGGINS.—What effect do you think it has on salmon? What becomes of it?

WITNESS.—Oh, I don't think it hurts the salmon. It goes in the river, and there are thousands and thousands of little fish that eat up a great deal of it.

MR. HIGGINS.—What kind of fish are they?

WITNESS.—Mainly suckers and such like. As far as its doing any injury to the fish I don't think that it does any harm, but other matters, such as sawdust, I think, do harm.

MR. HIGGINS.—Did you ever dredge near a salmon cannery and find any heads or putrid matter in the water?

WITNESS.—Oh, yes; I have dipped up salmon heads, guts, &c., but if stirred up it all goes in twenty-four hours. We have a five knot current here, and two tides in twenty-four hours, and a pure stream of cold water coming from the mountains.

MR. HIGGINS.—Did you ever go up to the head-waters of the Fraser River at a time when fish were dying, and see many?

WITNESS.—Yes; I have seen them in thousands, dead and dying, and from the way in which the heads and tails of the dying ones were worn and bruised it would be impossible for these fish to get up or back alive.

MR. HIGGINS.—Then what becomes of them; do they go to increase the already large amount of offal in the river below?

WITNESS.—Yes; but they are mostly swept away. I have seen them in a few places down here—in some very thick—but the current takes them away. I have seen spawning salmon in the Thompson River and other places, and have seen them rooting up places to spawn, and there is another point about it, I do not think it well for this country to have a law protecting the trout. For commercial purposes they are no good, and they really destroy more salmon spawn than anything else. They root up the spawning places and eat the spawn and also the little fish, and are very destructive.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—For what purpose, Mr. Wise, would you require a license to fish—for canning, salting, freezing, or sending fresh fish away?

WITNESS.—Oh, I think if a man wants a license he will be sure to sell his fish to a cannery. Now, when I was with Even we ran to our full capacity, and then had tubs ready and never threw away fish.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, now, you say every person should have a license; would that not tend to decrease the fish?

WITNESS.—Oh, no; I think they are just as plentiful as ever they were, just as many as long ago. Then you have a check on the fishing, namely, the close time.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—But you would like to pack up on Sunday what you catch on Saturday?

WITNESS.—Oh, well, it is necessary to work on Sundays in this country.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—The main point I want to get at is this: You say that the fish that go up never return, and that as long as sufficient numbers get up to spawn in sufficient quantities, it is enough to keep up the supply in the river?

WITNESS.—I don't think our large spring salmon ever return. They go up 400 or 500 miles, and are the best kind to be allowed to breed.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—It is your opinion, then, that if 500 boats were fishing there would be just as many fish as if but fifty boats were fishing?

WITNESS.—Oh, well, I would hardly say that; of course the more they are fishing the more fish must be caught, but I do not think any harm could be done to the salmon in the Fraser River. They are just as plentiful now as when I came here in 1862.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—They are just as plentiful now as when only forty or fifty boats were fishing?

WITNESS.—Yes; they are just as plentiful, but the spawning beds should be watched and protected.

Mr. WILMOT.—You state that you applied for licenses, and could get none; what was the cause? Was it because all the licenses were taken up?

WITNESS.—I applied to Mr. Mowat for ten licenses—well, says he, you can't get them, but put in your application. I waited, but I got no licenses.

Mr. WILMOT.—Have you ever assigned any cause why you did not get them? Was it from a personal point, or were all the licenses given out?

WITNESS.—Well, I never followed it up, anyway I didn't get them.

Mr. WILMOT.—Are you a farmer, you say the farmers should not get licenses?

WITNESS.—But you don't understand this country. There are many people settled along the river, but who always depend upon the river—they don't farm.

Mr. WILMOT.—But then do you think that a settler living as you state should pay as much for his license as another person engaged in commercial traffic?

WITNESS.—I am hardly prepared to answer that. I think in this way: I think the license fee should be as low as possible, nothing more than enough to defray expenses.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, do you think \$2 too high?

WITNESS.—Oh, no, \$2 is nothing at all.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well; now as to the mouth of the river: is it not the most destructive place for killing fish?

WITNESS.—Yes, it is the worst place.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—You might define the mouth of the river as it really is for your fishing purposes?

WITNESS.—Well, the limit should be as near the mouth as possible.

Mr. WILMOT.—Yes; but where is the mouth of the river, is it four miles from the lighthouse?

WITNESS.—There are two points of land at the mouth—it should be from one to the other.

Mr. WILMOT.—Then you are under the impression that fishing at the mouth has a tendency to drive fish away.

WITNESS.—Yes, it has a tendency. Indians have told me that they have seen fish in other places forced away from the mouth of our river.

Mr. WILMOT.—Then you think excessive fishing at the mouth drives fish to other points?

WITNESS.—Yes, it drives them away.

Mr. WILMOT.—And this injures the fisheries?

WITNESS.—Yes, certainly. Those fish would otherwise come into the river.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Now about the net—what depth of net do you fish?—A. Well, I think you should leave the net to the fishermen. There are snags in the river—you cannot fish very deep nets.

Q. Yes, but what I want to get at is—there is no limitation at present to the depth of net. Now there are many nets across the river of a certain depth; does this not act as a wall? Should not the depth be regulated as well as the length? Do you not think the depth should be fixed?—A. I am not prepared to say—the net should be left to the fishermen.

Q. Then would you give fishermen free liberty to fish with what must practically be a barricade to fish?—A. Well, but let me tell you the Fraser River is full of snags. You cannot fish a very deep net, and I have found that most of the fish will strike in from the middle up. Not one in ten will be caught from the middle down.

Q. Well, but some are caught—if we regulate a certain depth some would escape. At present you sweep everything before you, do you not?—A. Well, very few fish are caught from the middle of the net down. I don't care much about the net. I think the net is a small matter—we can catch all the fish we want with fifty mesh nets.

Q. Did I understand you to say that you think the canners have too large a monopoly of the river?—A. Oh, no, I didn't say that. Oh, no, the canners have got all the licenses, but I do say that every *bonâ fide* British subject should have a license if he wants to fish.

Q. Then you think if there were more licenses issued there would be more settlers come along the river?—A. Yes; that would be the result. I say, give licenses to all who want them—to everybody. You see we have Japs, Chinamen and all sorts of riff-raff, and what we want is that our own good countrymen living here should get licenses if they want them.

Q. Do you think it advisable to issue licenses to, say, young men who may fit out a boat and then get Chinamen to fish it for them?—A. Yes; everyone should have a license—you can't prevent a man from hiring whom he likes.

Q. And you are under the impression that the offal is not injurious to fish? A. No; it is not injurious to salmon—of course it is injurious to other things.

Q. Yes?—injurious to the farmer and settler along the river?—A. Well, I would not say to whom it is injurious. It is probably more or less injurious to people along the river; but it is not injurious, I believe, to the salmon.

Q. You think that there are great numbers of little fish that eat up the offal? What is the size of these fish?—A. Oh, from half an inch to six and eight inches long.

Q. Do you think it possible for these little fish to eat the heads of salmon thrown in the river?—A. Oh, well, you get several hundred hungry little fellows eating at the head of a salmon, and I tell you it soon goes.

Q. Do you think this offal remains at the bottom of the river?—A. Well, no; I don't think it remains there; it floats off—the current takes it away.

Q. Now, how about the Sunday close time?—A. I do not think there should be any change.

Q. But at present six hours are worked on Sunday; do you think this should be continued?—A. I think that is all right—I am not so conscientious as all that.

Q. Then there is a portion of Sunday when you should fish and a portion when you should not fish, eh?—A. Well, I think there should be one day of rest; perhaps it would be as well to have no fishing on Sunday.

Q. Is there anything further you would like to say?—A. No; only to repeat that our people should be able to get licenses if they want them—that is the great trouble.

J. BATCHELOR, of New Westminster, presented himself before the Commission, and was duly sworn.

WITNESS.—I was connected with the British Cannery last year, and I wish to make a statement before you. We are out of the canning business now, but I come before you because I think it my duty to come and say what I think about these licenses. Now last year there were several men came from Newfoundland and we put them on the river with other fishermen. They were good fishermen—they fished for us and we were perfectly satisfied with them. They refused to go out to work on Sunday night. The whole reason of the desire for Sunday night fishing is to get fish to keep the cannery busy on Monday morning. These men refused to go out on Sunday night until after midnight. They are good men in every respect and for the last two or three years have been applying for licenses but could never get them. Now there are others that we have who go off to Seattle and other places and work in the States and yet they can get licenses. This is very hard. These Newfoundlanders are a very desirable people to get out here; they are fine, healthy, strong fellows; they build houses and are in every way excellent citizens, and yet they are debarred from getting licenses.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Why did they not get licenses, Mr. Batchelor?—A. Well, I don't know—we applied for them and tried to help them, but we could get nothing.

Q. Where did they have to apply?—A. At the Fisheries office here. I may say that these men are at the present time working on the streets, &c.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Then you think it more desirable to hold out inducements to get solid, substantial men to come here to fish?—A. Yes; being *bona fide* British subjects, all should get licenses. Now, these men can make their own boats and nets and are in every way entitled to licenses.

Q. And do you think that fishermen keeping the Sabbath should be given a preference?—A. Well, I would not like to say anything as to that—I merely came here to give evidence on behalf of these men whom we had found so thoroughly trustworthy, and whom I consider very harshly treated. Fishing and building boats and nets is their only occupation, and it is very hard indeed to keep them out of licenses.

Q. Then you think that actual fishermen and *bona fide* fishermen should get licenses in preference to all others?—A. Yes.

Q. You are quite of the opinion that a great many people of that class have not been able to get licenses. Did you ever hear them express any opinion as to why they did not get licenses?—A. Oh, they were not personally objected to. The order came to allow the old fishermen the licenses and that shut out the others. I am quite sure that some of those old ones were not entitled to these licenses, but still they got them, and the good men were denied licenses. Now, these men talk of going into seal fishing and other occupations, and it is a shame that such good men should be obliged to go away.

Q. Then you think people who now get licenses are transients—they go away after?—A. Well, I don't know exactly enough to say that.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Who represents the cannery you sold?—A. The Anglo-American Packing Company.

Q. But who is in charge of it now.—A. Mr. English is manager.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Are you of the impression, Mr. Batchelor, that it is injurious to have too much fishing at the mouth of the river, and that it prevents the entrance of fish into the river?—A. Well, Mr. Wilmot, if I was now in the business I would give information, but as I am now out of it altogether, I would rather not give you information.

Q. Well, but I think it would not be out of place for you now, as a disinterested party, to give us your opinion?—A. Well, I prefer not to say anything now—we are

out of the business. My only object in coming here was for the sake of those people whom we employed and who I consider were very harshly treated. I would not care to speak on any other points, as I now have no connection with the business.

Q. Well, but, Mr. Batchelor, may I put it in this way: Your object is to see good fishermen come here—now would it not be equally as well if there is too excessive fishing in any portion of the river, that it might interfere with these men, and why not give us the benefit of your opinion on this matter?—A. Well, I would certainly prefer not speaking, however, if I am called upon later I shall be glad to say what I think. About the men of whom I have spoken, I felt it my duty to come and represent the great hardship under which they have laboured. They cannot do much other work, and have been born and bred fishermen.

Q. Do the cannery employ these men?—A. I am sure they would if they knew them, but they are not yet well known. Some have been already engaged—they are wholly fishermen and are excellent men.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Could you see these people and ask them to come here? Their evidence would be valuable.—A. Yes, I can; I will see them. I'll make a point to do so.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Did these people apply to Mr. McNab for licenses last year?—A. Yes, they applied, but they were told they could not get them.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Where was your cannery situated?—A. Just below Mr. English's.

Q. But where did you fish? At the mouth of the river?—A. Well, all the way down, often out in the Gulf.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Where did you catch the greatest number of fish when you were fishing?—A. Through Canoe Pass down to the mouth of the river.

Q. The best fishing then is just at the mouth of the river, is it not?—A. Well, it just depends what kind of run there is. In a good run you can catch just as many opposite the town here.

Q. What do you think of the regulation of nets? Would you advocate restricting them to a certain depth?—A. Well, it altogether depends on the location in the river. The most established mode of fishing is, I think, with forty meshes extension.

Q. What kind had they before?—A. It entirely depends on the channel of the river, some more, some less. We used thirty, thirty-five and forty.

Q. Would a forty-mesh net be twenty feet deep when in the water?—A. A mesh is about five inches, and the present mesh used is very suitable for the fishing. I desire to keep nothing back, but being out of the business now I don't think I should go into any matters that do not affect me.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. How far is Ladner's from the mouth of the river?—A. Well, I think the first buoy would be the mouth of the river. I don't know the distance from Ladner's. I don't know how far it is. I suppose about a mile or two. I really don't know.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. What do you think of everyone having a license?—A. Well, I don't wish to go into this question.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. What do you do with your offal?—A. We put it in the river.

Q. Do you think it hurtful to fish?—A. Oh, no, not at all; it never hurt the fish. It is taken right away at once by the tide. We never see the offal washed back. We dumped tons and tons of it and it all went away.

Q. But does it not leave deposits?—A. Sometimes, but it all goes. You must remember we have to drink that water; it is brackish, but we catch rainwater as well, and I can tell you we don't want to hurt the water. Then look at the numbers of dead fish up the river, at Chilliwack, &c. There are great numbers of them, and they don't seem to hurt the river. The crows and other birds seek after them and eat many of them.

Q. Well, but do these dead fish ever come down the river?—A. Oh, I suppose some do, but I never took notice of them; they all seemed to disappear.

Q. You think fishing should be confined to British subjects only?—A. Well, I don't see how any one else has any right to take fish.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. What class of people did you generally employ in your factory?—A. Chinamen, Klootchmen.

Q. Whom?—A. Indian women and Chinamen, and then the fishermen were all kinds; Greeks, Italians, &c., apart from the whites.

Q. What proportion of these Greeks, &c., would there be—that is, in proportion to the whites?—A. Well, it is impossible for me to tell. We have not time to bother to see who these people are.

Q. What number of hands did you employ in your cannery?—A. You will find it all given in the census returns. I could not say. We might have had 100 Chinamen, and forty or fifty Klootchmen, and about eighteen or twenty boys.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Do you think twenty boats sufficient for an ordinary cannery?—A. Some years it is, some years it is not.

Q. Then you consider it advisable to decrease the number of boats according to the season?—A. Well, I would not like to give any opinion on that. I do not want to interfere with anything connected with the fishing business, because we are out of it. I only wanted to speak for the better class of men. It is not right that these men should walk about with their hands in their pockets and all sorts of riff-raff get licenses.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Could you get these people here? We would like to see those who are representative men?—A. I will be glad to make it a point to see them and tell them to come in.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, what do you think of the Sunday fishing? Do you advocate fishing on Sunday?—A. Well, I wouldn't say; I simply say our men would not fish for us on Sunday.

T. W. HERRING, of New Westminster, appeared before the Commission and presented the following written statement, which was ordered to be entered in the record of proceedings:—

"To the Honourable Board of Fishery Commissioners.

"GENTLEMEN,—Knowing that you are now sitting in this city on the Fisheries Commission, may I be allowed, as an old resident and fisherman of British Columbia, to offer a few suggestions which would be an undoubted benefit for the fisheries in particular and British Columbia in general.

"1. I should suggest that no discrimination should be shown in the cost of licenses on the different rivers of British Columbia, but they should be all of an equal cost and good on any river of British Columbia, cost to be determined by the Fishery Commissioners, whether \$5 or \$20, and that no license should be granted to any one not born a British subject. This would keep out Japanese, Chinamen, and other foreigners who are no good to the country.

"2. I would suggest that nets for spring fishing for the first two months in the year should be of an uniform depth and of not more than fifty meshes.

"3. That licenses should be non-transferable, as several have been issued out of the limits to parties who are not fishermen, to the detriment of the fishermen.

"4. That the river should be locked as at present, but that licenses should be more equally divided than at present, consistent with the limitation. Canneries should be limited to fifteen licenses apiece, which with the present canneries on the Fraser River, twenty-two (22) and two more making application (24) would allow 120 or more licenses to be distributed among the fishermen without causing any harm to the cannery people.

"5. I would recommend that fresh fish dealers, salteries and fish-freezing establishments be limited to five licenses apiece, provided they can show to the satisfaction of the fisheries inspector that they have at least the necessary equipments for salting not less than 200 barrels and that the boat and nets are their individual property, and that if they cannot come up to these regulations no license should be granted to them.

"6. I would further say that these regulations should apply to all rivers of British Columbia and that all rivers should be governed by these regulations.

"7. I would further suggest that the present close season for trout should be reversed—that it should open from the 1st of October to the 1st of March only, as our markets are at that time bare of fish on this coast and trout are only fit for the market then. Also that there should be no limit to the quantity taken, as they are very destructive to the salmon spawn.

(Sgd.)

"T. W. HERRING.

"NEW WESTMINSTER, 19th February, 1892."

The above communication was read by the secretary previous to its being ordered to be entered in the record.

Mr. HERRING was duly sworn.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. We will be glad if you will just answer a few questions that will be put to you. Can a man under the present regulations by any species of subterfuge or underhand work, hold more than one license? Can it be done?—A. No, sir. I do not think it can be done. Any man getting one license, he could not do so without violating the law, except he got more than one license.

Q. How could he get more than one?—A. Well, the cannery people might number the boats in duplicate and so give a man more than one. It has been done under the present system.

Q. Why is there no check upon these people? Are the licenses not stamped?—A. No, they are not stamped. A counterfoil is kept by the fisheries inspector.

Q. What do you think of the practice of having Sunday as a close time?—A. From 12 o'clock Saturday till 12 o'clock Sunday night? I think it very good—I will be willing to abide by that regulation.

Q. You say in your paper that nets should be of an uniform depth of fifty meshes, for the first two months of the year, why do you say that?—A. Because we are fishing in tidal water and the water comes very slack. Some parties use nets of from fifty to seventy meshes, because they find it advisable to use them—they use these nets below the city; from here down to the Gulf, sixty and seventy meshes are used and more fish can be caught, and they can double and treble us in one week this way. There is a decided opinion amongst the fishermen that they should use any kind of net with which they can catch fish.

Q. What do you think of fishing outside the mouth of the river? Do you think it injures the runs of fish in the river?—A. Well, I could not say. I would not think it injurious in a big year; it might be in a bad year. There are so many fish the canneries get swamped with fish, and men get salmon they cannot handle. One throw of the net fills the boats and then they go to the cannery. I have known a boat to be filled at 9 a.m., and as the Indians are paid wages they don't bother to do any more that morning, and often wait until 2 or 3 o'clock before taking them to the cannery.

Q. Then in a short season it would be injurious to fish outside?—A. In a short year the nets are constantly working and it would be injurious.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. And the majority of years are short?—A. Well, we have different years—next year is expected to be a big year.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What was '89?—A. '89 was the big year, '90 the next and in '91 the fish were just double what they were the fourth year before.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Now, if this year's catch is double what it was four years ago, you will consider that the fish are increasing, will you not?—A. If the fish are double what they were four years ago I will believe the hatcheries are doing great good.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. You will be willing to go in for more of them then, will you?—A. Yes; it will be sufficient proof of their effectiveness.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. What are you now? Do you work for a cannery?—A. I am a fisherman now.

Q. As to this offal that goes into the river, do you know anything about it?—A. Yes, I know something about it.

Q. What is its effect on fishing?—A. I think at the mouth of the river its effect is very bad. Down there it floats down and lines the banks and gets foul of the nets—heads and guts, &c. It destroys the nets more than salmon do and makes the river water filthy—not fit for use unless cooked—if you were to drink it in the cannery season it would make you sick. We used to cook it like tea in order to drink it.

Q. Is it not a fact that many fish die up the river? They become offal then too, do they not?—A. Yes, but I have never seen many of them, they go to pieces. There was a time before the hot springs on the Harrison River were closed the fish would come up and leap and jump into the air and fall dead. There were hundreds and hundreds of them and we used to fish there and often picked them up half cooked—after death they were just as good as if they had been caught in the nets.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Did you work in a cannery?—A. Yes.

Q. What was the average size of the fish caught?—A. Some were about 7 pounds and some about 9 pounds.

Q. All through they would average about 8 pounds, then?—A. Yes, about that.

Q. How many fish are taken to make an ordinary can?—A. Well, nine fish go to a case, with this average it would be five and three-eighths cans to a fish. You see there is the head off and the guts out and the tail off. Sometimes they used to use the tail part. A machine cuts the fish into parts to fit the cans, but in good years the part near the tail all goes as offal.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. How long does it take before this offal disappears?—A. Well, offal is something like a body that goes in the river—it takes so many days before it disappears. Some time ago the cannerymen used to make cribs to keep this offal in, but now it goes to the bottom and rises after a time when the bladders burst.

Q. Well, now, is it a fact that other fish eat this offal?—A. Oh, yes; thousands of them; suckers and sturgeon are feeding on it all the time. It is great fun fishing for sturgeon; they come to eat the offal, and at Ewen's cannery we have often had great sport fishing for them.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. You state in your paper that fifteen licenses are sufficient for a cannery?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What do you mean—that they can carry on a fair business with that number?—A. Yes; they can protect themselves. They can carry on business with fifteen licenses; they will get as many fish as if they had twenty.

Q. Then, if they had forty licenses it would but prevent the sale of a large quantity of fish from outsiders to them?—A. If they were allowed forty licenses, or even twenty-five, in a good year it would run them to their full capacity. Now, for instance, when the limitation was made and 350 licenses were given to canners, that was a good year, and Mr. Ewen was allowed twenty boats of his own. He was scared he would not get enough fish, and he had twenty-two outside boats—I was one of them myself—and the contract was that he was to take each and every good fish put on his wharf, and when the fish ran thick he could not take them, and so he had to lay up his own boats, and he even went so far as to threaten all of us that the cannery would be ruined and run down, and he tried to stop us from fishing.

Q. Then the twenty boats of his own would have been quite sufficient?—A. Yes; but he was trying to make too sure; the twenty would have been quite enough, but he wanted fish from outsiders too.

Q. Then you think twenty boats would be quite enough for any cannery?—A. Yes.

Q. Well now, when they get such large quantities of fish what do they do with them?—A. Well, if they have outsiders more than they can control, they haul off their own boats.

Q. When they get more fish than they want, do they ever throw them away?—A. Well, not now. I have known it to be done though; scow loads at a time were dumped overboard; these were caught, and when brought to the cannery it was found to be shut down until they were ready to go on.

Q. You don't know of that being done of late years?—A. No, not now; they withdraw their own boats.

Q. When fish are very plentiful do they make the same number of cans out of one fish?—A. Oh, well, they cannot help themselves; the knives cut all alike.

Q. But could it not be done?—A. No.

Q. Well, but when the fish are coming in very plentiful is it not probable they would cut off more of the head and tail than when fish are scarce?—A. No; they don't do that; the fish are always cut the same way.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. But you have said already that in a plentiful year three inches of the tail is thrown away?—A. Yes, that is true, the last piece goes off instead of into the can.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. And in small years this would be used up?—A. Yes. Now I will give you an instance. Just imagine a boat to bring in 1,000 fish—one boat for one shift—about three hauls of the net. I was afraid I was going to be cut off and fished for five hours. I took 1,014 fish and delivered them to the cannery.

Q. But if all others were catching fish in the same proportion would it not overstock the cannery?—A. Oh, yes, certainly, but then they shut down and limited us.

Q. What did you do with the fish that were not taken?—A. Oh, they took all the fish we caught that day.

Q. What did you get for the fish?—A. Ten cents each.

Q. What year was that?—A. The year before last—the first year the limit was on—1889, I think.

Q. Yes; that would be 1889. What was the price of fish this last year?—A. There was a difference. Mr. Ewen paid 20 cents, others paid 12½.

Q. What made the difference?—A. Well, when the syndicate was formed on the Fraser River, he had arrangements made with them that they were to get his pack for three years, and the canneries they bought out—the proprietors of these canneries—they were to run them the same as before, with a certain interest in the cannery, or sold out entirely, with the agreement that they were not to build any more canneries on the Fraser River in three years, and outsiders who didn't come into this arrangement—Mr. Ewen, he reserved his own cannery, but all the rest were included—well,

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I can't say for Mr. Todd, he was, I think, outside of it. It was a special arrangement, but it did not work somehow or other; and Mr. Ewen, he had sold 44,000 cases of salmon before the fishing started, and I suppose he knew his own business and understood the capacity of his cannery, and of course he paid for fish accordingly.

Q. I notice you say in your memorandum that all the licenses should be the same cost. Some, then, are different?—A. Yes; on the Fraser River it is \$20, and on the Skeena it is \$5.

Q. Are the same cannerymen engaged on the Skeena as on the Fraser?—A. Yes, sir; and why should we not be allowed to fish on the Skeena as well as cannerymen. We are excluded.

Q. But do you mean to say that if any man on the Skeena wants to get a license he cannot do so if he pays the \$5?—A. No, sir; but I contend we have just as much right to fish there as cannerymen, if we like. Now, last year I wanted to fish on the Skeena for salting purposes, and made application. I got a reply on the 15th July, refusing, after all the fishing was over. Now, my brother fishes on the Skeena, and he tells me that out of 100 licenses there only forty were taken up by actual fishermen. The cannerymen put in Indian names and got these licenses besides their own.

Q. In other words the canners got all the licenses?—A. Yes, sir, virtually they did.

Q. What do you mean by the river being locked? I don't quite understand that.—A. Why, the present system of limitation of licenses.

CHAIRMAN. Oh, yes; I see. Well, now have you anything further to tell us?—A. No, sir; I think I have gone over all the points on which I wished to speak.

JOHN E. LORD, of New Westminster, after being duly sworn, presented the following written statement which was read and ordered to be entered in the record of proceedings:

“(Undated.)

“SIRS,—The canners, fishermen, and those interested in the fishing industry can appreciate the action of the department in sending a Commission to inquire into the wants of the fishermen, and if possible to meet their views so as make the industry a success. The men who form the body of fishermen are, with few exceptions, not a class to be recommended, being constituted of every nation, creed and character. Under the present license law these men get licenses, while men from the Eastern Provinces, Newfoundland and Scotland are prohibited—these men being born fishermen and coming to the country hoping to follow their occupation are disappointed and are forced to turn their hand to some other occupation for a living and their services are lost to the development of the fishing industry. On this account, if no other, the limit should be taken from licenses; any British subject being a fisherman and intending to fish, on making application should obtain a license, the price to be not more than \$5, and for the year. For the protection of the salmon, the close time from Saturday at 6 a.m. to Sunday at 6 p.m., is sufficient for all purposes. The present size of nets are well suited for their purpose. There should be no embargo on the taking of salmon trout or steel-heads, lake or river trout in the season; numbers now being taken against the law, few more would be taken if the law allowed. They are very numerous and the most deadly enemy of the salmon fry, in fact their taking should be encouraged and so increase the run of salmon. As regards offal from canneries, when we consider the great amount of salmon which die and putrify on all the streams running into the Fraser River away to the foot of the Rocky Mountains, the cannery offal is as a drop in the bucket, in fact the large portion of offal consumed by the large and small fish, and only that dumped in still and shallow water can be counted injurious to health and very slightly injurious to the salmon. Sawdust and other offal is far more injurious and should be prohibited being put in the river.

"*The Hatchery.*—The present site is not the best. Harrison Lake is preferable for all purposes. The time for taking ova is too late. Ova has been taken from the salmon after the canners refused to can them. The first run is best and strongest. Spring salmon should be propagated as they are the most marketable and no attempt has been made to propagate them.

"Canneries should have ten licenses each, and then only those in full operation. Markets, five licenses; freezers, five licenses. They all should depend more on the fishermen."

(Not signed.)

Mr. LORD.—Gentlemen, I speak in this manner because I believe it for the benefit of the river, and if we ever want to build up British Columbia with a class of good fishermen like we have where I came from—I belong to Halifax, N.S.—we should give licenses only to *bona fide* British subjects, men who would make homes and live here, and help build up the country. The present licensees are mostly foreigners and strangers who come from a distance, but have their names first on the list, and they go away and do no good for the country.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. But how do these people get these licenses?—A. Oh, well, don't ask me that; I don't know, but somehow the inspector we had—he that is dead and gone, he was too eager to please and to make things easy for all, and first come was first served. Now, the great trouble has been that the canners have endeavoured to gain complete control of the river. Last year they were working to get Japs here and settle them, and our own people would be done out of all work in connection with the salmon fisheries.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Do I understand you don't limit the number of licenses beyond one to the ordinary fishermen? For instance, these men who are coming here to settle; is one license sufficient for them?—A. When the canneries are working the whole of the fish is given to the canners, and they could always get a sufficient supply of fish from outside fishermen who would sell the fish, and one license would be ample.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. This traffic in licenses strikes me as a very serious thing?—A. Yes, it is, and something should be done. Now, it is this way: Many men succeed in getting licenses, and then they go and sell them to the highest bidder.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Then you consider that licenses should not be granted to any one except *bona fide* British subjects intending to fish?—A. Yes; only those intending to fish.

Q. Well, now, there is another class—the small farmer who gets a license for \$2?—A. I have no objection to any settler getting a license in that manner, but if he goes into traffic and sells to others, he should be on the same footing as all fishermen; but every resident fishermen and British subject should get a license, if he requires one.

Q. Now, as regards the canners, would you limit the number of canneries?—A. No; let there be no limit; throw it open to all. The market will regulate the matter. Now, there will be a couple of new canneries put up this year, and I think none of them should be granted more than ten licenses.

Q. And if they wanted more fish, they should buy them from the fishermen, you think?—A. Yes, they should—the fishermen can sell to no one else—they must look to the canners for sales.

Q. And the people employed in the canneries—they are not our own people—not resident citizens?—A. Not one of them, they are all Japs, Chinamen, Klootchies, Siwashas, &c.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. But they could not afford to employ white men in this work.—A. Yes, sir, they could—I will tell you—in about six weeks they do all their work. Now, what would be

a month's extra pay to men like the cannery men? They pay \$1 a day to the Indian women and \$2, say, to the white boys. The extra money for good white men would be a small affair to men making their thousands like the cannery men.

Q. But do you know the cost of putting up a case of salmon?—A. About \$2.50 for one case.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I think it takes \$4 nearly.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Have you been in the canning business?—A. No, I have not. I am a fisherman.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Oh, well, we can still take evidence from you as to the cannery work.—A. Well, I cannot speak with much authority on that.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I don't think your suggestion as to breeding the spring salmon is a good idea.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I may say that when we first started breeding salmon here we thought of taking up the spring fish, but the cannery men and others said that the other fish was the most desirable.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes, I may say that Mr. Wood at my table to-day said that in England the demand was for the red fish and that the spring salmon would not take in the English market.

Mr. WILMOT.—Yes, that is a remarkable fact. I know, when there at the International Fisheries Exhibition, Atlantic salmon of a light colour was not thought anything of.

Mr. LORD.—Now, in regard to the hatchery they established here—it might just as well work all the year round as not.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I may say on that point I have recommended for some time that we should catch the early run of fish and impound them until ripe, but somehow this view has not prevailed. Now you have spoken of another fish—the steel-head—is it a salmon?—A. It is a salmon very much like the Labrador salmon and the greatest enemy of the commercial salmon. But I do beg of you that you will let us catch the trout. They are only brought in in the winter season, but then it is against the law.

Mr. WILMOT.—Our experience in eastern waters shows that by so much killing of the better kind of fish has resulted in the lower kinds increasing and becoming more numerous.

Mr. LORD.—Now another point—I do think the licenses should run for the whole year.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, that would not result in so much danger here as in the east.—A. It would not interfere with the spawning of the salmon, because at other times than the cannery fishing time we would have to go down to the mouth of the river to catch our fish, and we would not prevent the spawning.

Q. This trout you speak of—what is it like?—A. Oh, a big fish, often as heavy as thirty pounds, and very much like the Scotch and Labrador salmon.

Q. Have you anything you wish to say further?—A. No, I think I have exhausted my remarks.

The Commission adjourned at 5.45 p.m. to meet again at 7.30 p.m.

19th February, 1892.

The Commission assembled at 7.45, and at once proceeded to business.

Present:—Mr. S. Wilmot, in the chair; Mr. Higgins, Mr. Armstrong, and Mr. Secretary Winter.

WILLIAM COSTIGAN, of New Westminster, presented himself and was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Now, do you desire to give a statement of your views direct?—A. As far as I can.

Q. Yes, well, make them as concise as possible.—A. I wanted to say that I have been four or five years here fishing on the river. I applied for a license on and off, but could not get one.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. To whom did you apply ?—A. To the fisheries inspector.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Was any reason given ?—A. No : except that the number of licenses to be issued had been granted. Then I see men—not fishermen—on the river who get licenses and who sell them to other people for \$50. They didn't fish these last two years to my knowledge.

Q. Well, what next, sir ?—A. Well, I don't know of anything else—I can't get a license, and I want one.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Do you know who sold these licenses ?—A man named Ross got a license from another man and paid \$50 for it.

Q. And did he fish under that man's name ?—A. He fished under that man's name—he had his boat. Grant, the man who had charge of the river, sold his license to another here.

Q. To whom ?—A. To Peter Nelson.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Who did you say was the first man who got the license ?—A. Well, Ross got the license from another man.

Q. Could you get him and bring him here ?—A. I could let him know.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Have you anything further ?—A. No, sir, I have nothing further to say.

Q. You follow the occupation of fishing, you say—if you don't get a license, what then ?—A. I fish for the cannerymen—I have fished all my lifetime, pretty near.

Q. Do you consider the value of a license at \$20 is excessive ?—A. I do.

Q. Do you consider the value of licenses now granted the cannerymen excessive for them ?—A. It is according to circumstances. I don't say it is too much for them, but it is for an ordinary fisherman.

Q. Do you think, in the occupation you wish to enter, that one license is sufficient ?—A. Yes ; one license is sufficient.

Q. You have had something to do with the canneries—now the cannery you worked for would have how many licenses ? Do you know ?—A. Forty.

Q. What cannery was that ?—A. Ewen's—he had two canneries.

Q. Were both running ?—A. I don't know—I didn't fish alongside the cannery.

Q. How did they get forty licenses ?—A. They had two establishments.

Q. Do you know the limit for the canneries ?—A. Twenty boats last year.

Q. Are twenty boats sufficient for a cannery ?—A. It is all according to the capacity of the cannery.

Q. Well, but take the ordinary cannery—are twenty sufficient ?—A. No ; not in proportion. It should be according to the capacity of the cannery.

Q. But suppose a man can fish twice as well as you can and he gets twice as many licenses as you ?—A. But he cannot fish with two licenses.

Q. Do you see much offal thrown into the river ?—A. Well, I don't have much chance to see—I just catch the fish and put them in the scow.

Q. You have never fished under a license at all ?—A. Yes, last year I did, but it was another man's license.

Q. Did you buy it then ?—A. No ; we fished on shares.

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By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What probable number of fish did you catch with that one license?—A. About 4,500.

Q. Were the fish taken from you regularly by the cannery?—A. Yes, regularly, only two days we were limited to catch only so many.

Q. Are you in the habit of taking the fish directly to the cannery?—A. Generally we go fishing in the morning and often would not get in till night.

Q. Were you at any time refused the fish you brought?—A. Not last summer.

Q. You have been previously?—A. Yes.

Q. What was done with those refused?—A. They were salted.

Q. They were not thrown away?—A. I don't know, I never saw any.

Q. Have you any further remarks to lay before us?—A. No, sir.

PETER NELSON, of New Westminster, appeared and was duly sworn.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. You have been represented as being a man who bought a license; have you it with you?—A. No, sir, but I have a receipt.

Q. Will you let me see it?—A. Yes, sir. (Hands to Mr. Higgins receipt as follows):

“April 18th, 1891.

“Received from Mr. Peter Nelson the sum of \$50 for one boat and use of license
“No. 18 for the term of one year.

(Signed)

“JOHN WAGNER.”

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Who is Wagner?—A. A fisherman fishing on the river.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Did you apply for a license?—A. I did, and didn't get one.

Q. What was the reason?—A. I don't know except that all were given out.

Q. Did you fish under the name of John Wagner?—A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. You were John Wagner for this season?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Your boat was No. 18 and you passed for No. 18 also?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is this practice generally pursued?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were you aware you were doing something wrong?—A. No, sir; I didn't think it was.

Q. What number of fish did you catch with this license?—A. Three thousand.

Q. Sockeyes? All of them?—A. All sockeyes.

Q. What establishment did you sell to?—A. I sold my fish to Mr. Ewen.

Q. Was there any day that you caught these fish that the cannery could not take them?—A. Yes; two days.

Q. What did you do with the fish not taken?—A. I didn't catch more fish. I took in my fish caught in the morning and they told me not to bring any more. I caught 40 more, but these I sold fresh myself.

Q. The fish you caught and kept yourself—where did you clean them?—A. On the bank of the river.

Q. Where did you leave the offal?—A. On the bank.

Q. Have you any idea of injurious effects being derived from offal?—A. I have seen it thrown into the river, but I don't know of any serious effects. I have caught refuse in my nets when fishing.

Q. What effect has that?—A. I lost the net.

Q. Do you think throwing offal into the river is injurious to the fish?—A. Yes; I think it prevents fish coming into the river.

Q. You say also it spoils your net?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Why do you say it prevents fish from coming in?—A. There is a bad smell, and it keeps them from coming in.

Q. Then you think there are two causes for injury—one stopping the fish from coming in, and the other the injury to your nets?—A. Yes.

Q. What is the usual size of fish you catch?—A. As small as four or five pounds.

Q. What size mesh do you use?—A. A six-inch mesh.

Q. How many meshes deep was your net?—A. Forty meshes.

Q. Could you fish satisfactorily with a less depth of meshed nets?—A. Yes, sir; I could fish in the channels.

Q. In what portion of the net when you take it up do you find the greatest number of fish?—A. Oh, they are most all over.

Q. As many at the bottom as the top?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Can you recollect what number you may have taken in one day?—A. I have taken 1,100 in one day.

Q. In what time of the year would this be?—A. In July.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. You say that throwing offal in the river prevents fish from entering the river—how do you account for the last few years? There have been several heavy runs?—A. I don't know, sir; I can't tell.

Q. Have you any idea as to it?—A. Well, some people give credit to the hatchery.

Q. Do you think throwing offal into the river caused the big run?—(Laughter.)—A. Oh, no; it wasn't that.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. About the hatchery—do you believe that yourself, or did you hear it?—A. I heard it.

Q. Then you still say that you know there were other licenses disposed of as this was to you—do you know of any names?—A. Yes, sir; I can give one—Capt. Grant, the fishery officer.

Q. He sold a license?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. In your fishing did you fish principally down at the mouth of the river?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are more fish caught at the mouth than elsewhere?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What do you call the mouth of the river—is it out two or three miles from the lighthouse?—A. No; from the second red buoy.

Q. Do you think the fishing is too excessive at the mouth of the river for the benefit of the fishing above?—A. Well, plenty are sure to get up.

Q. They are more easily caught at the mouth, are they not? Why is this?—A. It is easier to get them, and it is nearer to the canneries.

Q. Is one-third of the channel kept open?—A. I don't know.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. You say Capt. Grant sold his license; to whom did he sell?—A. To me and John Wagner. Wagner had the license and told me he would sell it to some one for \$50. Thus we had to pay Capt. Grant \$50.

Q. But I don't understand; who had the license?

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. But let us understand this. Was the license issued by the inspector of fisheries to Capt. Grant?—A. Yes, sir; we took it together and fished, and paid Grant \$50.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Is this man here—here in the room?—A. (After surveying the parties present.) No, sir; he is not here.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Then do I understand that Grant gave a license to Wagner and Wagner sold one-half interest in it to you.—A. Yes, sir; that is it.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Do you know where Wagner is?—A. I think he is in town.

Q. Will you get him and bring him in to-morrow?—A. Yes, sir.

Mr. WILMOT—Very well : that will do, sir, if you have nothing further to remark.

KEKONI, a native of Finland, a fisherman and resident of New Westminster, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, what is your complaint?—A. I have this complaint to make : that I have been in this country four years, and have been trying to get a license to fish here, but could not get it.

Q. What is your nationality?—A. I am a Swedish Finn.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Are you a British subject?—A. Yes, sir, I am. I took the oath here in Westminster.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Have you a license of your own?—A. No ; I could not get one.

Q. How did you fish, then?—A. I had to go to a cannery and get the privilege of fishing with a boat of theirs.

Q. Had you to pay anything for it?—A. I will tell you—the price of fish was 20 cents, but the cannery only paid 10 cents.

Q. Was that all the season through?—A. That was in the sockeye run.

Q. Then the canneryman sold you a license he had for 10 cents on each fish?—A. Yes ; I got about 3,400 fish, and, of course, that gave to the cannery \$340 for the license and boat that were not worth \$100.

Q. Is this sort of traffic carried on with other fishermen?—A. Yes, with most of us. We were fishing for Mr. Ewen. He gave the highest prices. Others were giving but 6½ cents, and keeping 13½ on each fish. The reason of that is many cannerymen largely employ Japs. We have heard they are going to import many hundreds of them.

Q. But Japanese get less wages, don't they?—A. Yes ; I know that for sure.

Q. Where did you fish?—A. Down at the mouth of the river.

Q. Why did you go there?—A. Because it is the easiest place to fish. You always have a good wind to sail up with, and the fish come in with the tide.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Who were you fishing for?—A. For Mr. Ewen.

Q. Well, was this 20 cents an universal price during the sockeye run?—A. No, it was not an universal price. Only two men on the river paid 20 cents ; the rest, I believe, were paying 12½ cents to outsiders.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. How many meshes deep was your net?—A. Thirty meshes ; that is the shallowest net on the river, generally.

Q. In your experience of fishing do you think that a 30 mesh depth of net is sufficient for ordinary fishing?—A. No, I don't say it is. It is better for the tide flats at the mouth of the river.

Q. And a deeper net further up the river?—A. Yes ; and even in the channel down at the mouth.

Q. Would it, in your opinion, seriously hurt the fishing if 30 mesh nets were established altogether?—A. Yes; for in spring fishing you want deep nets—you want up to 50 mesh nets.

Q. And fish are taken in the lower part of the net as well as the upper?—A. Yes; especially in spring.

Q. Then, as there may be on some occasions, six, seven or nine boats going down the river, the 150 fathom nets would form a sort of continuous fence across the river?—A. Yes; but they are generally drifting with the tide. Yes, it would form a kind of fence.

Q. You think one license would be sufficient for the ordinary fisherman to carry on his work?—A. Yes, I do.

Q. What else do you do here?—A. In the winter time I do any kind of job I can get.

Q. What are you doing now?—A. I am doing nothing now—I am waiting for the fishing to commence.

Q. What induced you to come here—to settle, or was it the fisheries?—A. Yes; it was the fisheries. I was in the Eastern States first, in Massachusetts, and I got a Government pamphlet about British Columbia and I thought I would come out and try and do fishing.

Q. Have you ever got a license?—A. No.

Q. Have you applied?—A. Yes, but I didn't get one.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Do you know of any licenses being sold besides those mentioned to-night?—A. I believe it is a common habit.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Can you give us the names of any persons you know of?—A. I could give names of persons who get licenses but do not fish them—they give them out and get one-third of the profits.

Q. Give us the names?—A. Mr. John Ross got one.

Q. Do you know where he is now?—A. I saw him in town yesterday—I think he is living down at the cannery, but I am not sure.

Q. Do you know of any other?—A. No, but Mr. Munn here might be able to tell you.

Q. Oh, yes, but we want what you know—we will hear from him by and by.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. How long did you say you have been a British subject?—A. I got my papers in the month of June or July last year.

Q. What were your reasons for becoming a British subject?—A. Well, I intended staying in the country and of course it is no use unless you belong to it—one must become a British subject to get the full advantages of citizenship.

Q. Do you think you have got the advantages?—A. No, sir, I have not indeed.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. You say you had to pay 10 cents to the cannery for the privilege of fishing, or about \$300?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do the cannerymen furnish you with boats and nets?—A. Yes, sir, they do.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. You say you have not received the full benefits of being a British subject. What do you think you ought to get—a license, for instance?—A. Yes, I should have got one. I don't think the cannerymen should get any licenses at all.

Q. But why not?—A. Oh, they are not fishermen, they are simply dealers.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. What is the cost of a boat and net?—A. Well, the boat and outfit will cost about \$140.

Q. And do you not think that the cannerymen who gave you that boat and net should get something?—A. Yes, he should get something, but my rig cost \$100—ought he to get \$300?

Q. But do not fishermen sometimes lose their nets?—A. Yes.

Q. And then you have to find another?—A. No, sir, the cannerymen would give me another.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, sir, have you anything further to say?—A. No, I think not, except that I wish to get a license.

BENJAMIN MADISON, of New Westminster, presented himself and was duly sworn.

Mr. WILMOT.—Have you any distinct statement to make?—A. Well, I want a license, that's all.

Mr. HIGGINS.—But we have no power to give you a license.—A. Well, I will go away then.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Are you under the same circumstances as the last man who gave evidence?—A. Well, no. I want a license and want to get one. I applied, but could not get one.

Q. What was the reason—were all taken up?—A. No, sir. I sent in my application and Mr. Mowat told me before he died that there were none.

Q. You have fished every year? How did you fish?—A. I fished by the season for different canneries, mostly with my own gear and sometimes with cannery gear.

Q. Then the cannery gave you boat and net?—A. Yes, I fished for them and I got one-third share.

Q. Then the system pursued by canners was to divide it into three shares?—A. Yes.

Q. How many fish did you catch?—Oh, I could not tell you—sometimes ten, sometimes twenty, sometimes more.

Q. But the average the season through?—A. Well, sometimes ten to twenty and sometimes more.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Do you think, Mr. Chairman, we should go on with this man's evidence: I do not.

Mr. WILMOT.—No.

A. Oh, sir, I don't mean anything: I just want a license, that's all.

JOHN McLASHLAN, a native of Scotland, now a resident of New Westminster, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, sir, will you please state what you desire to say.—A. Well, I have been in this country for the last three years and a half and have always applied for licenses, but could not get one.

Q. What was the reason, were you told?—A. Yes, last year I got a line from Mr. Mowat and he told me that they were given to more deserving persons. Before we left home a Government officer told us we did not need any licenses here and when we came out we found it different.

Q. What have you been doing since coming here?—Oh, anything I could get. I have been working on the Government wharf and have been working for the cannery as a net-man by day's work.

Q. Are there many white people engaged in the cannery besides yourself?—A. No, sir, only the foreman in the cannery and the one who looks after the retorts and another looks after the women, and another—perhaps ten white men altogether.

Q. What are the rest?—A. Chinamen and Kiootchmen.

Q. What number of those would be working in the factory besides your white people?—A. Oh, about 60 Chinamen and 20 or 30 Klookchies, and some young Indian boys and girls, over and above these.

Q. Then about 100 altogether?—A. Yes, about that. Perhaps more, perhaps less.

Q. Is there any marked difference between the labour of the Chinamen and that of the white men?—A. Well, the white men do nothing as regards the fish. The white men look after the Chinamen and have the higher classes of work.

Q. What wages might you have received?—A. \$40 a month till the sockeye run and \$60 after that.

Q. Do you know the wages paid to the Chinamen?—A, I don't know; some are paid by the piece and some by the day.

Q. Then you have not fished on the river by yourself?—A. I worked for Mr. Ewen. We were to fish for 10 cents and pay 6 for his gear.

Q. Your complaint is, then, that you don't think you are dealt fairly with in not getting a license?—A. Yes, sir; I think cannerymen have too many licenses.

Q. Then you think Chinamen are injuring the whites?—A. Yes, sir; the Chinamen are spoiling this country. (Laughter.)

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Do you know of any traffic in licenses? Can you mention any names?—A. I do know of instances, but I can't tell names.

Q. Are they British subjects?—A. I don't know—he is an old-timer here—he gets two or three licenses.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Can't you get his name? Does he carry on business here?—A. No, sir; but he lives in the City Hotel. (Here one of the audience addressed the witness). I find his name is Fred Kaye.

Q. Oh, very well. Have you anything further?—A. No, sir; except that I'd like to get a license, that is all.

P. WALGRAN, a native of Sweden, now a resident of New Westminster, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. You say you are a Swede; how long have you been here?—A. I am a Swede, and have been here since 1882.

Q. You are a fisherman?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you obtained licenses?—A. I never got one yet.

Q. What reason did you assign for not having got a license?—A. Well, I don't know—persons who have lived here a long time should get licenses first, I suppose. I have been fishing other men's nets on shares.

Q. Were they fishermen or cannerymen?—A. Fishermen.

Q. What did you pay for your share?—A. One-third.

Q. What number of fish did you catch last year?—A. Last year? A little over 3,000.

Q. What cannery did you sell to?—A. Mr. Ewen's.

Q. What was the share you gave for the privilege of fishing with his boat and net?—A. One-third.

Q. Did you on any days bring any more fish than the cannery would take?—A. No, sir; they always told me if they didn't want them before I went out again.

Q. Were you ever obliged to throw fish away?—A. No, sir; but I have been limited. The year before last I was limited to 500 fish a day.

Q. Is that a usual average?—A. No; previously you could catch more.

Q. Do you mean by day twelve hours, or day and night?—A. Yes, sir; twenty-four hours.

Q. What is the depth of net you fish?—A. Forty meshes.

Q. Do you think there is overfishing at the mouth of the river that would be detrimental to fish?—A. No, sir; there is no room for all the fishermen—some are down the river and some are up the river.

Q. Do they divide in turns?—A. No, sir; they stay down or up.

Q. Are there more fish at the mouth than up the river?—A. The biggest number was caught last year up the river just above the town here.

Q. What is the average weight of sockeye?—A. About five pounds is, I think, a fair average.

Q. What is the average of the quinnat or spring salmon?—A. Ten pounds, more or less.

Q. You are dissatisfied because you cannot get a license—would you be satisfied with one license?—A. Yes, sir; that is all I can manage.

Q. Do you think the fee of \$20 is too high?—A. Yes, sir; it is too high for a man who has to make his living out of it.

Q. Then you think the difference between \$5 and \$20 would make a great deal of difference in a man's living?—A. Yes, sir; in slack years it would.

Q. What did you get for your fish?—A. 20 cents—or I got one-third of that really.

Q. How many years have you been fishing on the river?—A. Three or four years.

Q. Was last year expected to be bad?—A. Well, it wasn't near so good as the year before.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. But did all think it would be bad?—A. There are generally two good years and two bad.

Q. What do you think about throwing offal into the river?—A. Well, I don't know anything about that.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Your main complaint is because you cannot get a license?—A. Yes, sir; that is my trouble.

Q. Very well, sir, that will do if you have nothing further.

JAMES BEER, a native of England, a resident of New Westminster, and in British Columbia for twenty-six years, a general merchant and cooper by occupation, was duly sworn.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, sir, we will be glad to hear your remarks.—A. There has been, of course, of late years since the limitation has been put on licenses, considerable dissatisfaction on account of the injustice done to a great many, and my opinion is, after nearly thirty years in this country, that there should be a free right and open river to all British subjects who wish to fish, and have a boat and net; and as regards a close season, I believe that the close season is sufficient as it is.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What do you mean by "close season?"—A. I mean the time in which the boats have to be out of the water—I believe that is sufficient for the purpose.

Q. Can you relate what that close season is now?—A. Well, I think it is from Saturday morning until Sunday night, and as regards an annual close season I do not think that necessary at all. My experience is that there is no danger of diminishing the supply of fish by the catching of them. I believe that if there were no fish caught in the river except what men would sell from door to door, that the river would not fully hold them. I consider that the spawning beds are overflowed with ova and that one

fish roots out the spawn of another and that possibly we do not get as many fish raised as we would if all were caught: and as regards the offal I don't think it any detriment to the fish, for if that was so the dead and dying fish would be enough to kill off the fish alone.

Q. May I ask you as to the Sunday time—do you think there are not a number of people here who think the Sunday should not be used for fishing?—A. Yes, I am one of those myself—but if injury is done to a great industry, I think it might be allowed.

Q. Then with your views, if a man wanted a hundred barrels—you are a cooper—do you think you would be justified in making them on Sunday?—A. No, I would not give them to him.

Q. I merely put it to you as an illustration.—A. But there is the difficulty, if the cannery have no fish to go to work on on Monday morning before the fishermen can get to work, with such a very short season as we have, it would be very harmful.

Q. Then you consider there is no use in the close time as at present.—A. I do not think it necessary.

Q. But do you think it of use?—A. Well, I knew this river and the Columbia when there was scarcely any fishing at all and I was making barrels for salting, and I know we had great difficulty in getting salmon to fill the barrels.

Q. But were there as many fishermen then?—A. Oh, of course not, but still I don't think the fish could have been caught even if the fishermen were there.

Q. Now about the offal. You think it is no harm to fish—what harm is it, do you think, to the human family—does it create a stench?—A. Well, no; I don't think it does harm—I do not know of it.

Q. But would you not say from a sanitary point of view it might do harm if it created a stench?—A. Yes, I think it would undoubtedly.

Q. Have you any further remarks you wish to make?—A. No, I think I have told you the points on which I desired to speak.

LOUIS L'HENAFF, a native of France, a resident of Steveston, and a fisherman, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. How long have you lived here?—A. Twelve years. I am a fisherman and work for the canneries as a net-man.

Q. Have you ever fished under license by yourself?—Yes, sir. What I want to say is that for the last three years restriction has been made and I could not get a license. This is my only trouble.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Are you a British subject?—A. Yes, sir; I have sworn allegiance.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Are you a native of Canada?—No, sir; I am a native of old France.

Q. You have been fishing for the canneries—as boatman or netter?—A. Yes, sir; all I want to say is, I want a license. I have asked for one every year for the last four years, but have always been refused.

Q. Do you know of barter or sales of licenses?—A. Yes, I do, but I could not be definite about it.

Q. Do you think if you obtained one license it would be sufficient for all your wants?—A. Yes, sir; without transfer.

Q. What do you mean by that?—A. That I should use it, or leave it alone and attend to other business.

Q. What do you know about the offal? Is it a fact that all the offal from canneries is thrown into the river?—A. Well, certainly a lot is wasted and thrown in, but I don't know anything about that. I came here to live and let live. I want a license, that is all, and I don't want to interfere with any one else.

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Q. Well, but what we would like you to answer is this: do you know or not that all the offal is thrown into the river?—A. No; not all, because some are making oil out of it.

Q. What cannery were you working for?—A. Oh, I have been working here for three years, and I have been on the Skeena River for two years.

Q. What course is pursued on the Skeena as to offal?—A. Oh, it is thrown into the river. That is the only place to put it.

Q. Do you think it is injurious to anything?—A. I don't think it is injurious to anything; it is food for other fishes; I don't think it hurts anything; it has been there for years; we have all drank of the water from the river for years and we have not died yet. This is not what is the matter; we want licenses, that is all. There is too much gambling in licenses.

Q. Well, how does it affect you?—A. Well, it throws me out of here. I had to go to the Skeena, but there the cannery had most of the outside licenses; they are divided among the cannery in somebody else's name.

Q. In what way do Indians fish there?—A. Under the cannery licenses—the cannery pays the fee—but now settlers are beginning to take up licenses.

Q. But you said all licenses were taken up by the cannery?—A. Oh, well, they were until very lately.

Q. What is the usual size of sockeye salmon up in the Skeena? Will they average about seven pounds?—A. About seven pounds when they come out of the water.

Q. How many cans will you get from one salmon there?—A. Oh, I believe about five cans, sometimes four and a half. I could not testify as to that; I am not a cannery; I am a fisherman; I never weighed them.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. What is the size of sockeye on Fraser River?—A. Oh, several sizes; I have seen some as high as 12 pounds.

Q. Well, what about the average?—A. All through about seven pounds.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. You cannot vouch for any exact statement as to the number of cans from one fish?—A. No; I never made statistics; I don't know.

Q. How many meshes deep are the nets used on the Skeena?—A. No deeper than 35 meshes; that is the deepest.

Q. Are any seines used on the Skeena?—A. No, all drift nets.

Q. Are fish caught there principally at the mouth or farther up the river?—A. Everywhere, except that they are not caught above tidal water.

Q. How far does the tide back up the water in the Skeena?—A. I have not been up that far.

Q. How wide is the river where most of the fishing is carried on?—A. About half a mile wide.

Q. Is the water more shallow there than up the river?—A. Yes; I think so, even the channel is shallow, and the fishing is carried on the same as here.

Q. Have you anything further to tell us?—A. No, sir.

BERNARD BUCK, a native of Norway, a fisherman, and resident of New Westminster, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Do you desire to make a statement?—A. Yes; I understand the cannerymen were going to ask for an increase in the number of licenses and let every man get a license, but if every man is to get a license, and the cannerymen get all the licenses they want, we could not make a living. It don't matter whether you are a fisherman

or not, the cannerymen are able to get licenses, and now they want more. If the cannerymen get more licenses and give them to others than actual fishermen, then we cannot make a living. I have fished under licenses; my only complaint is in the fear that the cannerymen will get more licenses; they get too many now. I have been working for Mr. Ewen, having charge of the whole cannery department, and I know that in a big run they could keep the establishment going in good order with 15 boats.

Q. And when there is a big run of fish and the cannery has 15 boats running, can you as a fisherman dispose of your fish?—A. Well, I only mentioned one instance and it was in the big run, and with 15 boats they had enough to keep the whole business going.

Q. Then the canneries have too many licenses and so affect seriously the livelihood of the fishermen?—Yes.

Q. But suppose you reverse it and say the canners only have a few licenses and you have one each, would you not control the canners?—A. No, not at all; we must sell to the canners anyway.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. You think then the canners should not have any licenses?—A. Yes; they could buy their fish just as cheap—we must sell our fish to the canners.

Q. Then you will be able to dictate to the canners and control the salmon fishing business?—A. No, I don't think we would.

Q. But capital should have some advantage, you know?—A. Well, they are too much protected now. I know all about them—I have worked for them long enough.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Do you know anything about the offal?—A. I could not tell you anything about that. I don't think it does any harm. I have fished right along where the offal was going down and caught fish just as well.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. How long does offal remain before disappearing?—A. Oh, the little fish all up—it does not remain long.

Q. But if the cannery stops for a day or two, does the offal remain there?—A. No, I never saw it, except at the mouth of the river.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Oh, it gets there does it? We have been told that it injures the nets.—A. I have heard that.

Q. Suppose the offal gets into the net—would it not prevent the salmon from getting into that net?—A. I never saw any prevented from coming into the net.

Q. Were you fishing last year?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where?—A. Down at the mouth of the river. That is the place where we fish for sockeyes and cohoes.

Q. What was the average number of fish you caught during the season?—A. Something over 4,000 fish.

Q. What price did you get for them?—A. 20 cents.

Q. To what cannery did you sell?—A. Mr. Ewen's.

Q. Do you know of the sale of licenses to fishermen who could not get them through the proper officer? Do you know of fishermen who purchased licenses from others?—A. Well, I can't say—many fishermen fished on shares.

Q. What depth of mesh did you fish?—A. I had 45 meshes deep.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Curiously enough, all you men in your evidence speak of years of big runs—you don't speak of general averages—why don't you speak of other years?—A. Well, because there is nothing in it in other years—we don't make anything.

Q. How many boats do canners want in a bad year, or if 15 boats would be enough in a good year? We want an average—we are being misled because we are

hearing of only the big runs. A. Well, in a big run the cannery make bigger preparations for a big pack. We have two good years and two bad ones. In a big run they calculate on a big pack and make a great number of cans, and then they can get all the fish they want with their own boats—in a small run they want all they can get, and an after us for the fish—we are very good men then (laughter)—in a big year we run after them.

Q. Would it not pay to salt the fish in the big years? Some canneries salt them in big years.—A. What canneries?

Mr. ARMSTRONG—Well, all, don't they.

WITNESS No, sir; some persons have salted salmon—they pay 5 cents for the fish.

Q. Do you know what it takes to put up a case of salmon? A. Yes; about \$2.80 I am not a canner, but I consider that is about the price.

Q. How many fish fill a case? A. Eleven sockeyes will fill a case.

Q. And what do they cost on the average? A. They have been paying 10 cents since the limitation was put on, but before that one and a half or two cents.

Q. And how many would you catch with one net?—A. Some have caught as high as 8,000 or 9,000.

Q. The average price of fish is then, say, 10 cents. Now, what does it cost to clean the fish and put them up?—A. Well, I don't know the details. I understand it costs \$2.80 per case—this is as far as I know. I have been told it is \$2.80 by the cannerymen themselves.

Q. Oh, you are telling us hearsay evidence, are you? You should tell us nothing but what you know for a fact yourself.—A. James Wise told me.

Q. James Wise never had a cannery in his life—how many years ago is it since he had one?—A. It might be ten years or so or more than that—I was very young then.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Then you don't know when he told you?—A. I don't know exactly when it was—I have been here since 1875.

Q. Very well, but we don't want anything except what you know. We are not going to take down any hearsay evidence. Now, do you know whether it costs more to put up a case of salmon now than it did some years ago?—A. Oh, I cannot tell you that.

Q. But of course you know that it must cost more when 20 cents is paid than when 10 cents is given?—A. Oh yes, of course.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, sir, have you any more remarks to make?—A. No; I think not at present.

The Chairman then declared the Commission adjourned at 10 p.m., to meet again in the same place (Court-house, Westminster) at 10 a.m. 20th February.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., 20th February, 1892.

Second Day's Session.

The Commission was called to order by the Chairman at 10 a.m.

Present S. Wilmot, Esq., in the chair; Hon. W. D. Higgins, Sheriff W. J. Armstrong, C. F. Winter, secretary.

FREDERICK KAYE, of New Westminster, a native of England, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, sir, we will be glad to hear any statement you may wish to make?—A. Well, it is rather a delicate question—if I should consider everything I have to—

Q. If you have any views generally you wish to state you may do so, you know.—
A. Well, sir, my general impression is that if you gave everybody licenses the matter would regulate itself. You should give everybody licenses, gentlemen, that is what is the trouble.

Q. Have you anything to say in regard to the disposition of the offal—the throwing of vast quantities into the river—what effect has it, in your opinion, upon the fisheries, or from a sanitary point of view?—A. Why, there is a multitude of small fish that devour it as fast as you throw it in—this is well known.

Q. Then you think that quantities of offal, amounting to millions of pounds, is all eaten up?—A. Yes; all of it—millions of pounds.

Q. What effect has it upon the inhabitants?—A. It is thought injurious by some, but I have drank the water of the Fraser for years and it has had no effect. I can only say that it never affected me—I don't know how other people are constituted.

Q. What about the limitation of the number of nets as to canners or fishermen themselves?—A. I think every man should get a license.

Q. You do not believe in any limitation whatever?—A. No limitation. Give every man a license. There is plenty of fish. I cannot go elsewhere and catch all I want. The fish from the Skeena came here last year.

Q. Would you say, in giving nets to all, to include foreigners?—A. Oh, no; decidedly not—no foreigners—give them to British subjects. They will soon get tired of getting them if it does not pay.

Q. Will one license each be sufficient?—A. Give him more if he has money and will put it into the industry.

Q. Are you of the opinion that it would be just and safe that licenses should be given indiscriminately, both as regards number and fishermen?—A. Oh, no; I would not give an unlimited number, but if a man has capital to put up a lot of fish, let him show proof and get more licenses.

Q. Then if a man has capital and wants licenses, he should get them and carry on business as he likes?—A. If he has the money to put up the fish, he should have the licenses; if he has not the means to carry on the work, he will not apply for what he can't use.

Q. Does this apply to fishermen and canners alike?—A. Yes; to both alike.

Q. What about the close season?—A. It is proper as now. It preserves the fish and gives fishermen rest. It works well.

Q. Are you an advocate that fishing should be allowed on Sundays?—A. No, sir; I am not.

Q. A close time then from six o'clock Saturday to six o'clock Sunday night?—A. Yes; and that is quite sufficient.

Q. Do you not think the whole of Sunday should then be given to the close time?—A. I think it proper, as far as I know of.

Q. What about an annual close season?—A. It would be good and proper; nothing can be better.

Q. What are your ideas as to limits of fishing on the Fraser River—should fishing at the mouth be curtailed?—A. Well, I don't really understand that.

Q. Well, at the mouth of the river—should there not be a limit where there should be no fishing?—A. You have no jurisdiction to do that, have you? If you cut—

Q. Never mind that. Do you think it advisable in the interest of the fisheries, that a portion of the river at the mouth should be excluded altogether?—A. It would be as well that a portion should be set off at the mouth. Of course, if you catch fish at the mouth, you drive them away to other places.

Q. Are you a practical fisherman?—A. I am, and I would like to meet the man that knows more about it.

Q. Should licenses be transferable, say to canners and others?—A. Well, the canners never fish their licenses; they always transfer them to Indians and others. A man should be allowed to transfer his license if he likes; suppose he takes sick, he must get another man to run it. If a license is granted it is mine, and I should do as I like with it.

Q. What depth of nets do you use?—A. I fish with 30, 40 and 50 meshes.

Q. What standard would you say—suppose one fixed?—A. Thirty and 40 meshes would suit well.

Q. Are the fisheries in the Fraser River decreasing or increasing within your knowledge?—A. My dear sir, the last year's run you had was as big as ever seen—it stands to reason then that the fish must be increasing. This river would supply the whole world if there were fishermen enough to catch them.

Q. Have you any knowledge of facts of overfishing in the Columbia River?—A. The Columbia was never as big a fishing river as the Fraser.

Q. Then overfishing has no effect, you think?—A. In a long time it may.

Q. Then do you not think it would be good to make rules for the future?—A. Oh, well, it is immaterial to me 100 years from now.

Q. Then you don't think overfishing would affect the Fraser?—A. No; not in our time; of course it is bound to tell in time.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Mr. Kaye, how many licenses did you hold?—A. Two; I applied for two.

Q. Are they personally to you?—A. Yes; I used to get five.

Q. Were they issued to you as canner or fisherman?—A. As a fisherman. I sold my fish.

Q. Did you hold two licenses last year?—A. Yes; but I let them out. I was taken sick and I fished them on shares.

Q. Were you aware that you got two licenses while there were other men who did not get any?—A. Yes.

Q. How do you account for that?—A. Oh, I don't know.

Q. Who gave you the licenses?—A. Mr. Mowat.

Q. And you don't think the throwing in of the offal a bad thing—don't you think it has a bad effect?—A. No; I tell you there are millions and millions of fish, and the little fish are in myriads—you could catch a barrel of them in a minute without a net—that will show you how thick they are.

Q. Do you think there is as much offal goes in the river as dead fish come down?

—A. Well, I cannot say how many dead fish come down; there are a great number.

Q. At what season of the year is that?—A. In September.

Q. Are they supposed to poison the river?—A. Oh, I don't think so—we often get them in the nets from the back part.

Q. Do you think cannerymen should be deprived of licenses? Say 100 were given on the river—would you give all of the hundred to fishermen and none to cannerymen?—A. No; I would say give so many to cannerymen, and so many to the fishermen. The cannerymen can protect themselves.

Q. Well, if all were given to fishermen, would they have a monopoly?—A. Oh, yes; it would be like the Columbia River. The price of fish would be put up.

Q. You go in for giving licenses to all?—A. Yes; I would give them all licenses—if you do, gentlemen, the business would regulate itself. Give the poor man that wants to work a license, and if he does wrong with it, it is his lookout and not yours. If the business does not pay, he will get out of it.

Q. Have you known of Americans or foreigners fishing under licenses to the exclusion of British subjects?—A. Well, I have heard of such things, but I cannot state so positively. I have known of a stranger to come in and go and become an Englishman in less than twenty minutes. I don't know how he did it, but it is a fact all the same.

Q. Well, it has been stated here that a resident of Washington has got a license here?—A. Well, I guess he went to a broker and fixed things. I have heard lots of things about such instances, but I cannot tell exactly.

Q. But then men who live here cannot get licenses?—A. Well, it has been done—I have known men get licenses who didn't know one end of the net from the other. I don't know how it is done. Then I have known lots of good men here who could not get a license.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Was that not because the whole number of licenses to be issued were taken up?—A. Well, I don't know what the reason was—they could not get a license, that's all.

Q. Then you think everybody should get licenses?—A. Yes; everybody—the business will regulate itself.

Q. You speak of dead fish coming down the river—how were they coming?—A. Many were wriggling and nearly dead.

Q. Do you think if they got to the sea they would revive?—A. Well, perhaps, some would—I daresay they would.

Q. The proportion is so great they come tumbling and wriggling—is that your experience?—A. Yes; that is it.

Q. Would you say "all persons" who got licenses should include the farmer, settler, fisherman and Indian?—A. No; not by a jugful—if a man has another occupation he should keep at it.

Q. But these people are all residents, why should there be any objection?—A. If a man is a farmer let him stay at farming. I am a fisherman, I don't go farming.

Q. But would you not let him fish for himself?—A. Oh, yes; let him fish for himself, but he should not sell.

Q. Should the Indians get licenses?—A. Yes; God gave them the fish—the river belonged to them—they should have a license. They were the first people here and I don't see why they, of all people, should be deprived of the right to fish.

Q. Well now, can you express an opinion as to what would be a fair number of licenses for the canners?—A. I beg your pardon, sir. I have never been in the cannery business. I could not say, and I would not like to hazard an opinion.

Q. Oh, very well, we thought perhaps you would like to give us an opinion—very well, if you have nothing further?—A. No, I have no further remarks to make, sir.

COWAN D. GRANT, of New Westminster, a native of Nova Scotia, and a master mariner, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. What are your views in regard to the disposition of the offal in the river?—A. I think if the offal is put in deep water it has no effect, but if put near the shore it might be dangerous.

Q. Where is the offal generally put, in deep water or along the shores?—A. In deep water generally.

Q. Are the canneries situated in deep water?—A. Yes; most of them are.

Q. Then as it floats down river it gets into the bays and sloughs?—A. Well, you don't see much of it—there are so many little fish that eat it up, and if in cribs it will be all consumed.

Q. Are there cribs in the canneries?—A. Yes, sir, most of them have them.

Q. Would small pieces of offal, such as entrails and small pieces, get out of the cribs?—A. Well, so far as my experience goes, I never see any of it in the nets.

Q. Have you heard it gets in the nets?—A. Well, I don't know, I never saw it.

Q. What do you think of the limitation of nets? Should they be free to all in numbers, that is to anybody who applies?—A. I think so, sir, but not to foreigners.

Q. Do you think one license quite sufficient for the ordinary fisherman to pursue his operations?—A. Well, if a man has a contract it would be necessary to have more, perhaps, but if he is just fishing for himself one might do, but sometimes two would be better.

Q. Well, but if one got two and another four and so on it would be too numerous—would you not give everyone one each and be sure?—A. Well, perhaps one would be a proper number.

Q. Have you any experience of the number required for cannery to carry on their business?—A. Well, I don't know.

Q. You could not give an opinion as to the number required for an ordinary cannery?—A. No, sir; I don't know. In a big season ten to twenty boats would keep them, but in a poor season they would want more, perhaps double that.

Q. Then have you found about twenty or twenty-five boats the average?—A. I am not posted in the cannery business, and so I cannot very well tell.

Q. What do you think of the close season—is it correct as now?—A. Yes, sir; I think it is all right.

Q. Would you give all Sunday for a close season?—A. I think it would be better to have all Sunday till 12 o'clock.

Q. Can you express any opinion as to an annual close season—would this be advisable?—A. Well, at the end of the season the sockeyes get very thin and nasty, but our spawning grounds are off the Fraser—I don't think it matters.

Q. But if fish get past these nets and get to the tributaries should fishing be allowed there—on the tributaries?—A. We don't allow any fishing on the tributaries.

Q. Then you think there should be a close season?—A. Yes; on these tributaries.

Q. Do you think there should be a portion at the mouth of the river where no fishing should be allowed—there is a large amount of fishing done there now?—A. Yes, a good deal, and of course it lessens the number which gets up.

Q. Would you allow any British subject to get a license?—A. Yes, sir; and the number should not be limited.

Q. Would you allow the cannery to get as many as they want, and also fishermen?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Well, if the cannery get all they want what effect would it have?—A. Well, it would hurt the fishermen's business for they depend on the canneries for the sale of their fish, but if every man was allowed a license it would regulate itself.

Q. Would a cannery, if it had sixty licenses ever employ an outside fisherman at all?—A. Well, I don't suppose they would.

Q. Then there should be some controlling power as between these industries—that would be fair, would it not?—A. Yes, sir; that seems but fair.

Q. Well, that could only be done by limitation. What do you think of this speculation in licenses—do you think it just, for often a deserving man cannot get a license?

A. This should not be done, but a man may have a partner. In the first place a man gets a license and a number, and he is liable for whatever may be done.

Q. In the course of your duties as a fishery officer you must have noticed the nets, their length, depth, &c. What number of meshes in depth are generally used?—A. Thirty to forty, it depends upon the channel.

Q. Would it be safe to limit the depth of net?—A. No, sir; I don't think so.

Q. Do I understand that the fishermen here have certain localities?—A. Yes; some have.

Q. What portion of the whole number?—A. I cannot say exactly.

Q. And local fishermen should have depth of net to suit the water and the rest would have all alike?—A. Yes, and the average would be thirty and forty meshes.

Q. Do you think if the depth of net were lessened more fish would get up the river?

A. Well, I don't know about that, when Saturday comes the fish get up all right.

Q. When fish come in they strike the net, few get under it, very few get around it, those that do are caught by the next net, I suppose none get over it?—A. I have seen some jump over it.

Q. None get under it?—A. Well, I think some get under, though I do not think the fish take the bottom when they come in.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. In your experience of salmon do they swim low or high?—A. I think high, sir.

Q. You think then thirty or forty meshes—how many feet would that be?—A. About twenty.

Q. In hauling in your nets have you found most of the salmon in the meshes below or above?—A. They mostly strike the top of the net—sometimes lower down, but generally at the top.

Q. You are a practical fisherman?—A. I have been.

Q. Did you fish last summer?—A. I had a partner fishing—I got so many fish out of those that were caught.

Q. Have you any recommendation to make as to licenses going to certain people—do you ever act as broker or know of a traffic in licenses?—A. No, sir; I don't.

Q. Have you known American citizens to get licenses while men on the river got none?—A. No, sir; I don't know that, but I know plenty of men here who could not get licenses.

Q. How long have you been employed by the Government?—A. I have been on two or three years.

Q. Do you fish?—A. I did last year and two or three years ago.

Q. Are you still an officer of the department?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. In regard to the offal, you don't know of bad effects from it being thrown in?—A. No, sir; not here.

Q. Is it offensive?—A. No, sir; not in deep water.

Q. Is the number of salmon that die up the river very large?—A. Yes, sir, very large, particularly in the creeks.

Q. Then they are swept into the main river and go down until they dissolve?—A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Have you ever seen fish in autumn floating down the river?—A. Oh, yes; I have seen lots of them.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. In regard to licenses—you say you think licenses should be given to every one, do you think they should be made transferable?—A. Well, my idea is you cannot fish alone, you must have a partner and I think it should be applicable to both.

Q. But as to the traffic in licenses?—A. Oh, well, I don't know as to that, but if I have a partner I don't see why I should not give it to him. The party getting the license is responsible.

Q. Have you known of anybody except fishermen to hold licenses?—A. No, sir.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. You say you had a license last year and fished it on shares—now, if any one stated you sold half of that license for \$25, would it be true?—A. No, sir; I was to get so many fish out of what were caught, I did not get money.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. In order to clear this matter up a little more—you made an arrangement with another man to get a certain portion of the fish?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Well, when you reckoned up did he give you fish or money?—A. Oh, he gave me the value of the fish in money.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. When were you appointed an officer?—A. On 25th of March.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. What pay did you get?—A. Sixty dollars a month and it lasted for seven months.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. What effect have steel-heads on salmon spawn?—A. A very bad effect, sir; trout also are very destructive.

Q. Then you think it a mistake to preserve the trout?—A. I do, indeed, sir.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. A great deal has been said about fish eating salmon spawn,—do these fish destroy the spawn on the beds or is it the young fish?—A. I have seen trout and steel-heads picking up spawn; I have not seen them rooting for it.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Steel-heads are not preserved by law, are they?—A. Well, sir, trout are and steel-heads come under that.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. But no; steel-heads are not trout—a steel-head is a salmon?—A. Well, yes; I suppose, properly speaking, they are salmon.

Q. Are any steel-heads to be obtained at this season of the year?—A. I think they are coming in now—they generally come in about the first of March.

Q. If there are any of these steel-heads brought into town I would like to see some. —A. I have not seen any yet.

Mr. HIGGINS.—We will be able to see them in Victoria.

Mr. Vienna, fish dealer, who was present, was invited to bring a steel-head, if he could procure one, for inspection by the Commission.

DANIEL J. MUNN, of New Westminster, a native of Prince Edward Island and a salmon canner, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Would you prefer to make a statement, Mr. Munn, or shall we ask you questions?—A. Well, perhaps it would be better if you would ask any questions you may desire.

Q. Well, what do you think on this offal question?—A. Well, I don't believe that it is injurious to fish, that is to the salmon; I think that the scavenger fish do away with nearly all of it.

Q. What effect do you think it has from a sanitary point of view?—A. Well, when it is deposited in deep water I don't think it has any effect at all. The only place it might be injurious is where it accumulates in large heaps and the sun possibly gets at it, and in that way it might pollute the water. It would then become offensive.

Q. It is thrown in heaps, is it not?—A. Yes, it is sent out through shoots. We all make it a point to put it in deep water if we can.

Q. Portions remain in the heaps, I suppose?—A. When put in deep water it does not. At the "Bon Accord" we don't see anything of it after it leaves the floor.

Q. Well, as to the wind-bags and the parts of the entrails attached, do not these parts rise to the surface and float down the river?—A. I have never seen it—I don't think it does—I have never seen offal float—a dead fish will.

Q. Is it sent along the shores of the river or in the sloughs?—A. A portion of it will float.

Q. Then that will be the wind-bags, &c., won't it?—A. Yes, but the offal itself does not float.

Q. Will not the wind-bags have a portion of the entrails with them?—A. Oh yes, a portion of the entrails will be attached, but that applies only to exceptional cases; I have not seen much of it.

Q. Are there many residents living along the bays or slough, settlers?—A. Yes.

Q. What effect would it have on people living along the sloughs or bays?—A. I don't think it has any effect if the water is filtered.

Q. I mean the offal in the water—if you were a settler would you like it?—A. No, I don't think I would, but I think I would take water from a deeper channel and filter it. I don't think the water from the Fraser River is fit to drink at any time unless taken from a deep source: there is so much dung, sewage, filth, &c., of all kinds thrown in, or drifts in along the banks.

Q. You think that there are more injuries to the water than offal?—A. Yes.

Mr. MUNN—(continuing). I may say that to dispose of the offal in any other way than at present would be very expensive—indeed so much so that we would have to consider it, and I would not like to undertake to dispose of it either by going into an oil refinery or by taking it out to sea.

Q. Could you suggest a remedy feasible to carry out, to get rid of the offal?—A. Well, my way of looking at it is that it is not injurious to salmon. That if it is injurious to people living along the banks of the river, the municipalities might take hold of it as a sanitary measure—it is entirely a local matter, I believe, where there could be any cases of complaint, and this is why I think the municipalities should take it up instead of the Dominion Government hampering an important industry by imposing unnecessary expense.

Q. I may mention that it is a statutory enactment throughout Canada and in most countries that this offal should not be thrown into the water, and here where it is so generally done it is a question of great importance as to what remedy can be devised. Now you speak of the municipalities taking it up—one municipality might pass a law that it should not be done, while another might allow it—you must have some power that would be universal.—A. Well, I think the Dominion Government should not have this matter in hand. The Provincial Government might look into it. I know that many of the complaints are unfounded. I went to one man direct myself on the river, who raised quite a noise about the matter, and asked what he wished us to do. "Well," he said, "I would prefer to put it on my land—we have any amount of land it would benefit." "Well," I said, "if I take a scow load and put it on your land would you say nothing more about it?" "I would not allow it," he said. He knew very well that it would almost cause a pestilence because it would create lice and other vermin of all kinds and would destroy all the fruit trees in the country.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Well, suppose there was an oil factory, would it be very expensive to take the offal to the factory?—A. Well, it would not be so very expensive as inconvenient—when fish are running largely, we have all we can do to look after them.

Q. Now there is an oil factory started down the river, and if the offal could be manufactured, just to pay expenses and nothing more, would it not be a good thing? If all parties would take the offal to the factory, I think they could afford to work it up?—A. Well, we would be only too happy to go into that if it is feasible, and if it will pay. I understand that the factory you speak of does not pay, nor begin to pay. It does not get rid of the offal either. They cannot dry it properly, and cannot make it fit to ship.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. You stated that you had not heard of persons making complaint against throwing offal into the river. I may state that the city of New Westminster has made complaint as a public body, and many persons have done so, too, from a sanitary standpoint.

A. Well, I just wish to state, if I said I heard no complaints, that I have heard complaints, but I did not think them good authority.

Q. But the city of New Westminster—ought it not to be good authority?—A. Yes; but I think the water more hurt by the sewage going in than by the offal.

Q. If this complaint is made by the city of New Westminster, and made by the inhabitants and numerous others that it is a nuisance, &c., would it not be better for all the cannery to club together, and by some means—you could erect machinery, &c., by a small pittance each—not create such an injurious nuisance. I don't think it injurious to salmon coming in, unless it lodges in places on shallow ground here and there. It is more from a sanitary standpoint that I should view it?—A. I quite agree it would be a proper thing to do, but as a cannery proprietor, I am not willing to go into any business unless I have some idea of what the expenses will be. Now, about two years ago, Mr. Begg went around amongst different canneries and asked them to subscribe about \$1,000 each, in order that he could build an oil refinery; get scows to convey the offal, &c., and he, of course, was to have the management of it. We went into the matter thoroughly with him and found that he had no experience in the world, and that he knew nothing more than we did ourselves; so we refused giving our \$1,000 each. If we saw our way clear that so many dollars a season would dispose of the offal, and advance the general good of the country, &c., we would be only too happy to go into it; but every dollar you add to the cost of putting up our fish, makes it harder for us in competing with other canneries on the coast.

Q. But if the law was carried out the penalty would be very great and every one of the cannerymen would be subject to this penalty, and at any time the Government could come down and say this law must be enforced. Now, would it not be better to arrange this before the penalty is exacted?—A. Well, if other cannerymen engaged in the business can make it pay I will be very willing to go into it with others, but as regards the "Bon Accord" (Mr. Munn's cannery) it will bear heavily upon us.

Q. Where is the "Bon Accord"?—A. Four or five miles up the river. It would be adding very much to the cost of working our cannery if we had to save offal in any way; but there is another point as well—we find it very hard when the run of salmon is on to get labour to take care of the fish in the cannery. It is not like as if we had four or five months in which to do our work—it must be done inside of a month and our labour must be collected inside of that time.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. But, Mr. Munn, there is the law—suppose we recommend that it does not be stopped—any man can come up and complain and the law must be enforced. Now, would it not be better for the cannerymen to do something to help better this state of things?—A. Well, as far as I am concerned I don't care to go into any business I don't understand.

Q. But there is the law?—A. Well, if the law says we *must* (emphatically) move off the river—all very well.

Q. Oh, no, I didn't mean that?—A. Well, I maintain if we have to go to the cost of taking care of that offal other than we do now it is tantamount to forcing us off the river.

MR. WILMOT.—Well, but in Washington and the United States there are penalties against the putting in of deleterious substances in rivers and streams?—A. Yes, if it is injurious to fish. They do throw offal in, in Washington, and if we have to take care of it we will be at a disadvantage with them. I agree that it would be well to take care of it if possible, but not in such a way as to put us to expense.

MR. HIGGINS.—Change the law. Ask the Dominion Government to take care of the offal. I consider the Government should take care of the offal themselves. They should start oil factories, &c. They protect all kinds of industries, why should they not afford some protection to this important industry here?

MR. WILMOT.—But as this is a matter affecting the Province of British Columbia, why should not the Provincial Government look after this?

MR. HIGGINS.—Oh, no; the Dominion Government takes care of the fisheries, and if the offal is deleterious to health and is destroying rivers as places of residence, I think the Government should step forward and do something to prevent the bad consequences. I think you should not ask the cannerymen to do more than to deliver the offal at the oil factory.

MR. MUNN.—Beyond all that, would it not be as well to have a medical officer inspect the river and have it settled whether this offal is really deleterious?

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Cod fishermen on the coast of Norway, England, Sweden, and, I think, in the United States, have been the principal parties in asking that offal should not be thrown in because it is deleterious to throw fish in on the coast on account of it driving fish away from their haunts nearer shore. Now, here, I don't think it is deleterious to fish coming up, but as a sanitary matter I should think it was decidedly so.—A. Well, I don't think it is as much injury as the sewage thrown in and the great numbers of dead fish that die up the river. The offal is a small matter compared with them. Then it might even be cheaper, if the offal law is to be enforced, to give the farmers better water—bring it down from above to them.

Q. Is it not a fact that the report that the habit of catching salmon at Point Roberts on the United States side and throwing large quantities of them away was harmful to the Fraser River and has been complained of by cannerymen as injurious to your river?—A. I have not heard of it.

Q. Because if this is injurious by being thrown out in the Straits, how much more is it injurious in the river itself when they are thrown in?—A. Well, I don't think so—I didn't take any account of that.

Q. Are not large numbers of salmon thrown away when you cannot put them up? A. Not from our cannery, except once, when we threw away 300 salmon one Sunday night a year ago.

Q. In catching the quinnat, what do you do with the white salmon during the season?—A. We don't use them—we give them to the fishermen and they use them as best they can.

Q. Will they eat them instead of the red salmon?—A. Certainly; because they get them for nothing—they are equally as good.

Q. What proportion of white and red might there be?—A. I don't know exactly. In August there are more white than in early spring.

Q. And yet they are caught and not used?—A. The Indians use them for their own purposes; they are not wasted.

Q. Are they not frequently taken out of the net and thrown away?—A. It may be done to some extent—I have never seen it.

Q. When you carry on your fishing at the latter end of the season, do you not catch humpbacks as well?—A. Yes.

Q. What do you do with them?—A. They are thrown away.

Q. Then they become offal as well?—A. I suppose so.

Q. Are they very numerous?—A. Yes; we catch few sockeyes when the humpbacks are coming in.

Q. What about the cohoes; they come in later than the humpbacks, don't they?—A. They come in later. They are caught by fishermen, but we have no use for them in the cannery.

Q. What are done with the cohoes caught?—A. They are canned, but of late years we don't fish for cohoes.

Q. Are they fished for by any other persons?—A. By some for the fish markets.

Q. Are all consumed? Not thrown away?—A. They are not thrown away to any extent.

Q. If steel-heads are caught in nets while fishing for other fish, what is done with them?—A. They are canned with the other fish.

Q. Then the most valuable fish for canning is the sockeye?—A. Yes; we depend absolutely on the sockeye.

Q. With regard to the propagation of salmon for this river, do you think it best to breed only sockeyes and not any other kinds?—A. Well, I believe more information should be gained of the natural spawning grounds in the country before they should be artificially hatched, or anything of that kind. We don't know enough about the natural history of the salmon in the province. We ought to breed spring salmon because that is the best salmon.

Q. In connection with spring salmon are some mixed red and white?—A. Yes; you find them streaky.

Q. Are they a distinct species, do you think?—A. Well, I don't know. They seem just as good one with another, red or white, the only difference is the white one does not suit the taste of consumers. I would prefer seeing spring salmon bred.

Q. Has artificial breeding been beneficial to the river, do you think?—A. Well, I don't think it is yet beyond the experimental stage.

Q. As far as it is gone, what do you think?—A. I don't think we have enough information to say.

Q. How do you account for the big runs in some years?—A. Up to '89 and '90 there were always good years, except '86. I should say that the reason the run was so great last year was because the spawning conditions were much more favourable when the eggs were deposited on the natural grounds, as they were unfavourable in '86.

Q. '89, '90 and '91 have been large runs. Was it usual in former years to see consecutive years large?—A. Well, last year was better than any off year. With the hatchery as an experiment, I can understand that the big run of last year was owing to favourable conditions when spawn was placed in the rivers.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. I suppose after this year's run you will be able to tell better?—A. Yes; I think so.

Q. What is the average weight of the sockeye you can?—A. I should judge about six pounds.

Q. Is it not a fact that all reports make the average nearer eight pounds?—A. I am not a judge of the weight of fish; I only know how many fish it takes to the case.

Q. What is the usual run of cans to a fish?—A. Well, in poor years four cans to a fish—in heavy years the fish are always smaller than in poor ones.

Q. Then one-third of a six-pound fish is offal?—A. Somewhere about that.

Q. Then if the average of salmon were eight pounds you would get five cans?—A. Yes; about that.

Q. Then the offal would be three pounds?—A. Yes; it is a matter of calculation—the bigger the fish the less the amount of offal.

Q. What would be the fair average quantity of cases put up at a cannery that would be remunerative?—A. Well, these are things we cannot tell much about; it all depends upon the market.

Q. Should a cannery commence operations or begin to work with machinery for less than 15,000 cases?—A. I think everybody should go into the cannery business if they want to.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, suppose a man with a capacity of 20,000 cases, and he gets the same number of licenses as one who packs 10,000 cases, would it be just?—A. No; a man's pack should be consulted.

Q. Do you think 15,000 cases a fair number for twenty licenses?—A. I don't think any such arrangement should be made at all. This twenty license system is not a good one in the way it has been worked. It all depends.

Q. What do you say to unlimited licenses, both to cannerymen and fishermen?—A. That is to say, that any person could get one or as many as they wish?

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. If you want ten as an individual you should get it? How would you work it?—A. Well, labour regulates all that, and then it would be putting the river on the same basis as any other enterprise. A cannery should have a number of licenses—not necessarily established—but as long as he can get as many as he requires.

Q. In the case of a cannery which shut down for the season, what then?—A. Well, they would not need any licenses. If there is an established law no one will take out more licenses than they require.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Then a cannery should get a minimum number?—A. Yes; if it is necessary to establish a fixed number of any kind, but my principle is that a cannery or individual should get a license, or any number of licenses upon application and payment of the license fee.

Q. Then one canneryman could go and say, I want one hundred licenses; another says, I want ten—then the man with ten would have to rely upon the ordinary fishermen?—A. Yes; if you have a fixed number, but it depends upon the law you have—if you say there must be a limit to the number of boats on the river, there should be a minimum number, but I would do away with any fixed number on the river to fishermen or cannerymen.

Q. Then the Government would have to put them up to auction?—A. No; not necessarily.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Well, I think this would pass the whole business into a monopoly.—A. Why, the fishermen can make it just as great a monopoly.

Q. Not unless they had capital?—A. Well, do you think cannerymen have absolute control of labour to run an unlimited number of boats? It is just this way: the cannerymen prefer having good contract fishermen to any other system so long as we can feel secure ourselves.

By Mr. Wilnot:

Q. Very true, but you could dictate to the settler coming in if you had all the boats?—A. But where are we to get our labour for all these boats?

Q. But persons coming out to British Columbia from other countries, they cannot get licenses?—A. But if everybody could get licenses how would we have a monopoly? Just following out this principle, suppose the cannerymen were given a limited number and you gave licenses to everyone who came into the country, would not the fishermen have a monopoly? You are working on a wrong basis if you imagine a monopoly can be established by allowing free licenses on the river—let every fisherman come in and get a license and cannerymen get all the licenses they want.

Q. Well, suppose cannerymen were fixed at a minimum number of licenses, say fifteen or twenty boats the maximum number of boats a canneryman could get, leaving it free for all cannerymen wanting to go into the business to get some, and one fisherman to get one license each. The cannerymen would always have enough to run their establishments, and if they wanted more fish they could buy from the fishermen. Would not this equalize matters?—A. That is a practical proposition; I cannot see though what difference it would make to my idea. I am reasoning for having a fixed number for each canneryman, as our Indian labour must be given employment. They are the best kind of labour we can get. They come and bring their families with them, and these latter—their women and children—find employment inside the cannery. We require a certain number of boats each day, and we send them out. It is our loss if they do not bring in enough fish to pay. But at present with the limitation in the number of licenses, it prevents people coming in because they cannot get licenses. For instance, Bob Gardiner, a white man, fishing in 1886-87-88, he brought his family with him, and there was no limitation in the number of licenses in 1888, and it was not necessary to take out a license. In no particular name he fished on one of our licenses. His name did not appear on the books at the inspector's office, and next year he was refused a license because his name did not appear. Since then we have given some of his boys a boat to fish. When he found he could not get a license, he did not come down next year, and thus you prevent labour from coming. We require a certain number of licenses to encourage as much labour to come as possible, for of what value are green fish unless you can use them and have labour to put them up with?

Q. But would it not be better to induce white men instead of Indians?—A. Well, there would be room for all.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Our Indians are different to yours in the east. They work all the year round and spend their money in the country.—A. Now, there is another matter. We want this labour to take the place of Chinamen, but if the limitation continues how are we to do unless by employing Chinamen and other cheap labour? Now as to giving licenses to all, it does not matter as long as we can get a number of licenses and are sure of that.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. But if we gave you 100 licenses, we place fishermen at your mercy?—A. Oh, no; but when you give a limited number on the river it hurts all.

Q. Well, I believe the time is coming when the number of canneries on the Fraser should be limited?—A. Well, then, that will be a monopoly.

Q. But we must not place any one class at the mercy of the other?

By Mr. Wilnot:

Q. Is it a fact that a cannery gets twenty, thirty or forty licenses, as the case may be, and then hires licenses out, and when fish are worth 20 cents each, the fishermen gives his fish and gets but 10 cents each?—A. It is a practice to fish on shares; we never sold our licenses; we always did it on shares.

Q. Then that man is hampered by getting 10 cents for his fish, for if he got a license himself he would get 20 cents?—A. Yes; of course it depends. We work on shares and make the arrangement with the men—now labour is scarce, we put two men to a boat and allow them 10 cents for each fish, although we prefer to buy our fish, and then they (the fishermen) are responsible for their own boat and net.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. You give them a boat and net when they fish on shares—how much do these cost?—A. Oh, \$140 for a boat and net: but as long as good labour is encouraged to come into the country we have no cause of complaint, but the way things have been working it has been injurious in every way.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. What would be a fair average catch of fish for a boat during the last three seasons?—A. It varies—sometimes 3,000 or 4,000.

Q. Statements were made yesterday that 3,000 and 4,000 were caught and delivered to the canneries?—A. Yes; that is correct.

Q. Then 700 of those salmon would equip a man, at 20 cents each?—A. Yes.

Q. And he would have then the difference between that, namely, 2,300 fish as his own individual profit?—A. Well, I don't see why the cannerymen should not go into a little speculation if they liked. We always make the best bargain we can; but there is one thing you must not overlook, namely, that 700 fish does not represent the cost of the fishing outfit, boat and license, net, waste, loss, &c. You must also take into consideration that these nets are snagged once, twice, or three times a year; and we have to have a man to look after these nets as well.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Is 20 cents the average price for fish?—A. No, sir; it is not—it varies.

Q. Well, what is an average price?—A. I have bought some at 20 cents, some at 15, and some at 10 cents—it changes.

Q. The average price would not be 15 cents, then?—A. No; not 15.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. What are your views in regard to the weekly close season?—A. I think our close season as at present is quite sufficient and I would strongly protest against any change.

Q. What is the object of the weekly close season?—A. The object was to allow fish to pass up the river.

Q. Not for keeping the Sabbath?—A. I suppose not—there is a double object though—I don't expect people to work on Sunday if they can avoid it.

Q. Canners asked that the close season be changed by changing from Monday morning back to 6 o'clock Sunday night?—A. Just let me explain. As far as I know anything about it from the time I have been on the river from when I came here first up to '89-90, there was 30 hours close time, from Saturday noon to Sunday evening at 6 o'clock. I have never asked nor desired any change from that. I may tell you that up to the two years ago when this change was made from Saturday evening to Monday morning at 6 o'clock there was more real work on Sunday than any time else, and when I told you we threw away 300 fish at the "Bon Accord" it was on account of asking our men to work on Sunday morning, and consequently it always was very difficult to get our hands out to work on Sunday. Why I object to extending the time to midnight Sunday would be that the guardians could not see if any fishing was going on. I believe the law should be fixed so all could see if it was enforced. They could see that no one went out before 6 p.m., but could not see if any went out at 12 o'clock.

Q. Well, if Sunday is worthy of being a holiday, and having work prevented on that day—query, why whole day or one-third?—A. Well, our season is only five or six weeks; we have to guarantee so much work to our hands—so many days' work, their food and their taxes.

Q. Yes ; but you entered into a speculation in establishing a cannery with all these things known ?—A. Yes ; but we feel we are having a hard time to compete with other parts of the coast. If we are pushed too hard we will have to leave the business. Alaska and the Columbia River are hard to compete with, and we should be treated liberally, not in such a little trifling way as to bother us with a few hours on Sunday.

Q. Oh, I don't think these matters are such trifles, they affect the whole community ?—A. I would only say that when you have to depend upon the short time—four or five weeks—you cannot stop at such little trifles. Sunday work is often necessary, but we wish to avoid it as much as possible.

Q. Then what you say is the present law is all right ?—A. I have the laws of the adjoining States here respecting the close seasons. I see the State of Washington has a weekly close time from 6 p.m., Saturday, to 6 p.m., Monday.

Mr. HIGGINS.—What is the weekly close time in Oregon ?

Mr. MUNN.—(Reading from his copy) Between 6 p.m. on each and every Saturday, and 6 o'clock in the evening of the following Monday.

Mr. HIGGINS.—What is the date of that statute you have ?

Mr. MUNN.—Eleventh of February, 1891.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. I would state that we have evidence here to show that the canners themselves asked that the close season should commence at 6 o'clock Saturday morning and continue until 6 p.m., Sunday.—A. Yes ; but we considered that if the Government was bound to have six hours more than usual, we should have them on Saturday morning instead of putting them on Sunday night.

Q. What do you think of an annual close season ?—A. I think the Fraser River is amply protected now ; I would not advocate any annual close season.

Q. The State of California has a law prohibiting the taking of salmon from the 1st of August to the 1st of November. (Mr. Wilmot here read extracts from departmental file, No. 8478, in reference to this matter.)

Q. When do the humpbacks begin to enter the river ?—A. In September, though it is more difficult to go up the river in low water than when the rocks are covered. But there is a good deal of difference between the regulations on the Fraser River and those on the Columbia. On the Fraser River fishing is limited to tidal water ; on the other side, I believe, they fish very many miles above tidal water on the Columbia. On this side—the Fraser River—we have no pound-nets, traps, nor fish-wheels ; these have never been used here, since 1876 at least, and all are used on the other side. Then we have had a weekly close time of thirty and thirty-six hours since 1876, and over there it was never enforced until two years ago. Now these are three of the most important things, and which I consider will protect the river against any possible over-fishing.

Q. But why do the Columbia people say their river has been depleted by over-fishing ?—A. Well, they have never had the benefit of our laws. Then they never kept one-third of the river open.

Q. Is it kept so here ?—A. Yes ; I believe so always. Then there is the cost of licenses ; they don't have any charge at all. Then we have small meshed nets ; I cannot find anything over there regulating this matter.

Q. Is it not better for the fishermen to have small meshed nets ?—A. Yes ; but there is a possibility of burdening us down with too much law. We should be treated so as to compete successfully with the Columbia River.

Mr. WILMOT.—But I don't think you are being overburdened. I think the canners have been able to make the canning business a most profitable one.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes ; I think so too.

The Commissioners adjourned at 12.30 p.m., to meet at 2 p.m.

The Commission reassembled at 2 p.m. at the Court-house, New Westminster, the full board being in attendance.

Mr. MUNN, on being recalled :—

Mr. WILMOT.—Mr. Munn, you are still under examination. Mr. Sheriff Armstrong is desirous of asking you a few questions.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Will you kindly tell us what it costs you to put up a case of salmon, that is the average cost?—A. Well, if that question should and must be answered all right—but I don't wish to divulge my business to the world. I don't think I should be asked that question.

Q. Well, it has been stated here that you can well afford to put up a cannery at a cost of \$5,000, and make \$20,000 by getting more licenses. Now, how are we to know that; how are we to get at the facts if we do not get authentic figures as to cost, &c., from you?—A. Well, if they did make a big strike out of the twenty licenses, it is certainly by the most favourable circumstances. It is only once to my knowledge that a great strike has been made and made with safety.

Q. Now, there were canneries put up this year; was not it in order to earn those twenty licenses?—A. Well, partly, and partly because canners had found that their brand was worth more than their twenty licenses would supply.

Q. Well, if they make that many, why decline to give us the figures?—A. Well, that is the only year. I will give information to you in this way: If the market continues as at present—

Q. But give us the average for the time you were in the business?—Well, the average cost is about \$3.75 the case.

Q. What does it cost to ship them to England, on the average?—Well, I could not tell; I could not give you an average; we have damaged cargoes, &c.

Q. Well, but your average?—A. I have not figured it up.

Q. Well, but could you not let us know?—A. Well, I don't want to tell the world what I am doing. I will tell you this: that for the last 18 months the best salmon in England has not been above 18 shillings.

Q. Well, is \$3.75 a fair cost for getting good returns?—A. Well, I would not like to say. I don't think it costs much below that and other expenses will bring the cost up to \$4.50, delivered in England. Then there are reclamations that come back on us if fish are not in good condition, &c. Certainly I should say that this extra expense is not less than 75 cents a case.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Have you any clear idea what canners intend to do with the offal this year?—A. I don't know of any arrangement. As far as I am concerned I think, though the "Bon Accord" needs to be renewed, I shall not go in it to expend one single dollar upon the place until the offal question is settled, because if we are obliged to haul offal we will shut down and go down amongst the others below the city. We will regret this, because the advantages at the "Bon Accord" are excellent, with an abundant supply of good fresh water, &c., and naturally I feel anxious to know how we are to be treated; and if the offal law is going to be enforced, I feel it would be foolish for us to rebuild.

Mr. WILMOT.—Since hearing you this morning I have noticed an article in one of your papers in connection with the question of fish offal—samples which have been sent down to Ontario from British Columbia and analysed by Professor James of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. I will just read it.

Mr. Wilmot proceeded to read extracts from the article which, in the *Victoria Colonist* of 20th February, 1892, appeared as follows :—

FISH AS A FERTILIZER.

THE ONTARIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REPORT UPON BRITISH COLUMBIA SAMPLES.—
AN INDUSTRY WHOSE DEVELOPMENT MEANS MUCH FOR THIS PROVINCE.

In the annual report of the Department of Agriculture of the Province of Ontario, for 1891, the following analysis appears from the Chemical Laboratory of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, by C. C. James, Professor of Chemistry.

Four samples of fish were brought east from British Columbia, by Mr. Alexander Begg, for the purpose of ascertaining the comparative value of each kind. The samples were placed in tin cases, and soldered. They reached Toronto in March, 1891. The cases were numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4.

No. 1 contained head and entrails of codfish.

No. 2 contained a whole dogfish.

No. 3 contained divided salmon, as cannery refuse.

No. 4 contained whole herrings.

Professor James reports that taken from the cases as received, they consisted of the following:—

	1	2	3	4
Water	70·11	77·17	77·04	77·50
Dry matter	29·89	22·83	22·96	22·50

By thoroughly drying, as far as was possible, the amount of water was reduced to about four per cent, so that in drying the material was reduced to about one-fourth of its original weight. The dried material gave the following by analysis:—

	1	2	3	4
Water	5·91	5·76	2·08	7·48
Ash	17·62	18·48	13·54	10·15
Organic matter	76·47	75·76	84·38	82·37
	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00
Oil or fat	27·21	25·55	66·95	18·29
Nitrogen	6·32	7·80	5·55	7·96
Phosphoric acid	5·70	6·67	4·79	2·72
Potash	0·36	0·51	0·58	0·21

If the materials were deprived of their oil or fat and manufactured into a dried, well powdered fertilizer, without the admixture of anything foreign or additional, it would have about the following composition, as far as its most valuable fertilizing constituents are concerned:—

	1	2	3	4
Water	10·00	10·00	8·00	10·00
Nitrogen	8·50	10·00	12·00	0·50
Phosphoric acid	7·50	8·50	11·00	3·50
Potash	·50	·50	1·00	·30

An analysis by Arendt of Norwegian fish scrap gave of:—

Moisture	17 per cent.
Nitrogen	10½ "
Phosphoric acid	4 "
Organic matter	72 "
Ashes	12 "

Other samples have shown more phosphoric acid (13 to 15 per cent) and less nitrogen (8½ to 9 per cent). Some of them were scrap that had been steamed to remove the oil.

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It will thus be seen that a most excellent fertilizer can be produced from any one or all of the fish refuse sent here for analysis, by (a) extracting the fat or oil, (b) removing the excess of moisture by drying, (c) thoroughly pulverizing. The fertilizer thus produced would be rich in nitrogen and phosphoric acid, but would be deficient in potash. To make a complete fertilizer of it an addition of sulphate of potash might be made. Without the complete extraction of oil and salt and effective drying, a finely pulverized guano cannot be obtained.

Norwegian fish potash guano thus produced contains as follows, according to Dr. Griffith's "Artificial Manures":—

	Cod and Potash.	Herring and Potash.
Nitrogen equal to ammonia.....	7.00	7.05
Phosphates (fish bone).....	20.00	8.00
Potash (sulphate).....	15.00	15.00
Magnesia.....	10.00	10.00
Sundry matter.....	1.00	1.00
Water.....	5.00	5.00

"These fish guanos are shipped from Jansen's works in the Lofoden Islands (Norway), and conveyed to England," and, according to the same authority, English fish guanos (without potash) sell from £5 10s. to £6 per ton. American fish and potash sells at from \$25 to \$35 per ton. Potash and phosphates are added to the fish refuse, and they contain from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of nitrogen; from 3 to 13 per cent of phosphoric acid, and from 3 to 6 per cent of potash. * * * * *

Prof. Storer, of the Agricultural Department, of Harvard, in his "Agriculture in some of its Relations to Chemistry," says: "The American fish guano is a product obtained incidentally in the manufacture of oil from a coarser sort of herring called the menhaden or pogey." Mr. Watt, of Aberdeen, in the report of the transactions of the Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland, for 1886, page 203, says: "The oil from the herring is serviceable for a great many industrial purposes—for the preparation of leather, in the treatment of vegetable fibres prior to spinning, in the manufacture of soap (which is the great use to which the analogous menhaden oil is turned in America), and for lubrication and burning."

Professor James says in relation to the commercial value of the material, that "from one ton of undried refuse and herrings there should be obtained at least 100 pounds of oil, and perhaps much more; and from 400 to 500 pounds of fish guano or fertilizer—the latter worth between \$20 and \$30 per ton, or the ton of raw fresh material should produce oil and fertilizer worth at least \$15, and perhaps \$20. On this question of value of production, Mr. Watt speaks as follows: "From 10 tons of average herrings in the fishing season there would be obtained $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons of oil perhaps, and two tons of fish guano. If, say, 300 gallons were obtained, which is a moderate estimate, and the price 2 shillings a gallon, which might probably be realized, the oil of 10 tons of fish would produce £30. Then there would be two tons of guano at £10 per ton. Thus, if estimates are at all trustworthy, something like £5 a ton might be realized through the manipulation of herrings as a raw material of oil and manure." The above value of £5 is, perhaps, too high for this country, but making allowance for that, our valuation of \$15 to \$20 per ton will not be much astray.

CONCLUSION.—From the consideration of the whole question, I am of the opinion that the manufacture of the refuse into fertilizer is strongly to be recommended because:

- 1st. It will thus utilize a by-product that otherwise is a total loss.
- 2nd. It will prevent the waters from being contaminated.
- 3rd. Its proper management must tend towards a more healthful surrounding.
- 4th. Its return to the soils of the farm will partly offset the waste of our cities by sewerage carried to the lakes and rivers.
- 5th. If properly handled it will pay well.

From the great importance of this question to the health of the community, the welfare of the fishing industry, and the progress of agriculture, I have endeavoured to reply at this length.

[Professor James is entitled to the best thanks of the people of British Columbia for his able and exhaustive report on a subject of so much interest to the province, as well as to the rest of the Dominion. On inquiry it is found that the Minister of Agriculture for Ontario had the analysis made at the Agricultural College free of any charge. It is further learned that Mr. Begg procured the samples of fish and took them to Toronto at his own expense.]

Mr. MUNN.—That gentleman undertakes to say that it would pay well. We should only be too happy to have that man's capital interested in the business. Besides that, if it is a contamination to the water, &c., if it is well that it should be used, why not go up the river and take the salmon that are found dead? There are a great many of them and I think there would be more money in it than there would be in taking the offal from the canneries. I would suggest this. We are anxious to have the regulations established on some permanent basis. From year to year we are in jeopardy—we don't know the number of licenses we will get, five, ten, or forty. It was varied in '89—some had forty, some eighteen, and so on according to the previous pack—the number was different. Last year, for instance, we had to order our material in October and the regulations for fishing were adopted in May, and, that I contend, was not giving our industry fair play, and the sooner it is settled the better.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Do you think all canneries should have the same number of licenses?—A. I don't believe in establishing any number, either for the canneries or for individuals.

Q. But if an establishment were made should all have the same number?—A. No, that would not be equity—I think not.

Q. Then the person building the most extensive establishment should get the most?—A. Yes, I think a man putting up a big establishment would be in a better position to put up a better article.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Then a big cannery puts up a better article than a small one?—A. No, not necessarily, but it is a well-known fact that a person doing an immense business has more opportunities for making the article he is putting up a first-class article and that his goods are well thought of in the market.

Q. Well, Mr. Munn, I think we have questioned you quite at length now—is there anything further you would wish to present to us?—A. I can think of nothing further just at present.

P. McTIERNAN, Indian Agent, of New Westminster, a resident of British Columbia for thirty-four years, was duly sworn.

Mr. McTIERNAN.—The reason of my coming here before you is that I want to make representations on behalf of the Indians of this country to the effect that they are not fairly treated. There are about 3,000 or 3,500 Indians fishing on the Fraser River and they have only forty licenses. Now, they bitterly complain about this, and I come before your Commission to see that you rectify this in some manner. They should get at least 100 licenses.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. If the licenses are unlimited and all fishermen and British subject get licenses they would come under the same rule as others?—A. But there are only forty licenses granted at present; I have nothing more to say.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Well, but are they prohibited from fishing?—A. Oh, no; they fish a day's work—the forty can sell fish to the canneries, while the others are obliged to work for the canneries at per day's pay. Some Indians make \$600 or \$800 a year and perhaps some \$1,000 a year—that is those who have licenses, and those who have not come home with purely nothing, and really these Indians are the bone and sinew of the country and they spend their money in the country too.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. They are preferable to Chinamen, are they not?—A. Ugh—(laughter)—there is not the slightest comparison.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. How is it they make more money than those who do not hold licenses?—A. Because they sell their fish for 10 cents, or whatever the price may be, and the men who work by the day get \$1.25 or \$1.50 only. Now, I could tell you that at Langley where they are a numerous and fine able-bodied lot of men, there is not one license, and the few licenses that are given are given to Indians of Coquitlam at Kitse.

By Mr. Wilmot :

I might read for your information that this is the present statute :—

"Fishing by means of nets or other apparatus without leases or licenses from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, is prohibited in all waters of the Province of British Columbia.

"Provided always that Indians shall at all times have liberty to fish for the purpose of providing food for themselves, but not for sale, barter, or traffic, by any means other than drift nets or spearing."

Now this means if they ask for licenses they will be placed on the same basis as white men, but if fishing at all times for themselves they must not enter into competition with the white men. You see the intention is that the Indians being the first people of the country, they were given the privilege of fishing for their own use, but if they wished to get into trade and become a regular fisherman, they must take out licenses.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. How many out of the 3,000 Indians would be able to provide themselves with a boat and net?—A. I could not say—that would be left to themselves. I think at least one hundred on the Fraser River would so provide themselves.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. In all the fishery laws of the Dominion the Indian is given priority over the white man, that is an Indian may fish without a license as long as he does not trade or barter?—A. But that is just what the Indian wants—he wants licenses so as to sell.

Q. But the number being limited the Indians only get forty, but if the number was extended to all, everybody would get it?—A. But you see the Indians are entitled before any other parties, and they only get forty while the cannerymen get a large number. I tell you, gentlemen, it is a very hard matter, and I hope something can be done to improve it. Thank you, gentlemen, that is all I have to say. I simply came here to speak for the Indians.

GEORGE HOLLIDAY, a native of Scotland, now residing in New Westminster and living in British Columbia since 1858, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, sir, we shall be obliged if you will state concisely what you wish to say?—A. Well, gentlemen, I have very little to say except that we, as fishermen of British Columbia, would like to have an even show with the cannerymen. They have had the advantage since the limit was placed upon the number of licenses. Some few years ago there were 500 licenses issued. The cannerymen got 350 and the fishermen got 150—that is ostensibly they got 150, but I beg to differ with that statement about their getting 150—the freezers, the shippers and the market-men all had to come out of that, which is something like thirty or forty—and the Indians too, they had to come out of it and whom I don't consider legitimate fishermen of the river at all. The Indians never before took out more than three or four or five or six licenses, as can be seen from the returns—they came down here and fished for the cannerymen, and now as soon as ever a limit was put on they crowd in to get these licenses, and as the Indian Agent has just said they get forty, and these forty are almost equivalent to giving forty more licenses to the cannerymen, because very few Indians—one in ten—have their own boats and nets. The cannerymen pay the license fee and the Indian goes and fishes for the cannery for whatever they like to pay him—so this is just like giving them to the cannerymen. If you deduct these we have very few left and the cannerymen then with plenty of licenses have command of the river. Now, all we want is to take the monopoly from the cannerymen and give us a fair shake with them and so we can get fair prices for our fish. Last year we got fair prices because we had some little trouble with them. This thing about licenses—there has never been any trouble until the limit was put on. There is a great number of men here who used to fish for the cannerymen. They all want licenses now since the limit has been put on. Our great trouble is with the cannerymen and we have complained because they can close us down at any time.

Q. Then your view of the matter is that these forty licenses, stated as being obtained by Indians, are really the property of the cannerymen?—A. Almost wholly the property of the cannerymen because they are the men who go to the office and pay for these men's licenses, and of course you know when they pay for the license they will see that terms are made to get the money back.

Q. Then the cannerymen have complete control?—A. Of course; people have to fish for the cannerymen, there is no doubt of it the cannerymen give them the best they can, but the cannerymen every year meet and have an understanding, and they bind themselves not to give over a certain price for the fish, and of course they have command of the river, seeing they have almost all the licenses, as you can see by taking seventy from the whole number. On my license last year there was a notice that no more than 500 would be issued—now, there were more issued.

Q. To whom?—A. To these new cannerymen. Not one put up a can but they got licenses. This all hurts the fishermen and the river.

Q. Then it is an actual fact that the new cannerymen did not perform work in them?—A. Well, I cannot say from my own knowledge, but I never heard of one putting up one can. They may have done, it is more than I ever heard of; in fact I have always understood they were not in working condition.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. What you heard is no evidence?—A. Well, of my own knowledge I know that if they had been working I would have known it.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Why do you say an Indian should not have a license?—A. I do not say he should not have a license, but if he cannot pay for it it is equivalent to giving it to the cannerymen.

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Q. But if it is given to all?—A. Oh, well, if to all why give to the Indian too; he has as much right.

Q. How about transient men?—A. Well, I understood the limit was put on to keep this floating population away.

Q. But some do get licenses, don't they?—A. No; I don't think so. I only know of one and he could hardly be called that—he used to live here—he is gone away.

Q. But one of the chief complaints is that Greeks and Italians, and other foreigners get licenses?—A. Well, I have not heard of it.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. But, would not these Indians be liable to sell their licenses to the canneries?—A. Well, I don't see it in that way; a man cannot sell a thing that he has not. The cannerymen go and pay for them; it is done through the office.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Do they get them in the names of certain men, or in their names?—A. In Indian names, and the cannerymen hold the licenses.

Q. Then you think it a fraudulent transaction to get licenses in another's name?—A. Certainly; there is fraud in it, but the Indian is interested in it and has got to fish.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Do you think every British subject ought to have a license who applies for it?—A. No; I don't think so.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Why?—A. Because there would not be room on the river.

Q. Well, but would not those who found it unprofitable step out?—A. True; but one has to make gear, &c.

Q. How would you limit the matter?—A. Put the licenses high on outsiders; \$50 or \$100, and then they will not come in.

Q. What do you think of the offal that is put in the river?—A. I believe offal has more or less evil effects on the river. It contaminates the water, and keeps fish more or less from coming up the river. I know that even the most voracious fish—the dog-fish—if you come to put that on the fishing grounds you will drive your fish away. Salmon are a much more delicate fish, and lives in fresh water on suction, and it must find this offal bad; still at the same time it may help the salmon. It collects the small fish in great numbers, chub, perch, &c. They collect in great numbers at the shoots where the offal comes in, and the Chinamen are able to catch them in great numbers. Everyone knows that this offal fish is bad for the salmon ova on the spawning beds, and if great numbers of these are destroyed it must help the spawning of the salmon.

Q. Are the young fish that eat up this offal accustomed to go up on the spawning beds; do you think this customary?—A. I think they do go up to the spawning beds; it is not so far to the Harrison River, which is a great spawning bed.

Q. What size are these small fish?—A. Two or three inches up to twelve or fourteen.

Q. What effect, from a sanitary point of view, do you think the offal has?—A. I think it is bad in summer time when large quantities are in the river.

Q. Have you had any experience of the bad effects of offal getting into nets at the mouth of the river?—A. No.

Q. Do you think it is injurious to fish entering at the mouth of the river?—A. No; I don't know.

Q. But voracious fish like dog-fish, pike, &c., would eat it largely, but salmon, you think, it would affect?—A. Yes; I think so. They are more delicate altogether.

Q. Are you aware salmon invariably enter rivers with purer water than other fish?—A. Well, so far as my experience goes in regard to fish, we always consider the

salmon come back to its own rivers, so much so, that in Scotland we can tell to which river the salmon belonged. These fish when in the wrong river turn and go out again.

Q. Then the inference to be drawn from your statement is that if the Fraser River is polluted with too much offal it will prevent fish to a certain extent from coming in the river?—A. I have thought so, but there are such large quantities of fish coming in one cannot tell. In latter years there has been a run of sockeyes coming in after what is called the sockeye run is over—between the spring salmon run and the cohoes. You can tell the fish—they should have been on the spawning grounds from their appearance. Twelve or thirteen years ago I do not remember catching any of these fish, now we do.

Q. What do you think of the close season?—A. I think it quite necessary, so far as the weekly close time goes.

Q. What do you think of an annual close season?—A. I don't think it at all necessary on this river, because fish are going up pretty nearly the whole year, and as long as they are going up you are not interfering with the spawning grounds whatever.

Q. What depth of net do you fish with?—A. Sometimes forty, fifty, and sixty meshes, according to the places where I am fishing.

Q. Do you fish at the mouth of the river?—A. Largely, but I fish all over.

Q. Why at the mouth of the river?—A. Because fish come there first and have all to pass me before they get up to any other persons—that would be quite an object.

Q. Do you think too much fishing at the mouth of the river would have a tendency to scatter the fish?—A. It might, but there are so many little sloughs when the tide comes in, that plenty can get up.

Q. But if all were filled with nets?—A. But they can't do that—they are full of snags and you could not put the nets there—stationary nets might do it, but we are not allowed their use.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. You think to a certain extent offal is injurious to fish?—A. Well, I don't know—in some ways it helps them and in some ways it is injurious.

Q. In what way does it help them?—A. Because it gives a chance for Chinamen to destroy a lot of these little fish that otherwise would do harm to the spawning beds.

Q. Now, if this offal is injurious to the fish by contaminating the water, &c., what are we to say of the dead and dying fish that come down in such large numbers?—A. Oh, well, I don't know.

Q. Have you ever been up the river?—A. Well, Mr. Higgins, I have been up and down since 1858. I have seen lots of dead fish at Yale but never so many as they talk about, except the humpbacks in October. I have seen them going up to spawn so thick that you would really think you could walk across on their backs they were wedged in so thick. In the struggle to get up and in their more or less exhausted condition of course many died, but this thing of all the fish dying that go up the river before they spawn is all rot.

Q. Did you know the late Inspector of Fisheries, Mr. Thomas Mowat?—A. Yes, I knew him.

Q. Well, if Mr. Mowat stated twenty-five per cent of the fish lived to get back, or if he said only five per cent lived to get back, would it be correct?—A. No, sir, I don't believe him. I have been fishing longer than Mr. Mowat. I am a practical man and I don't believe it.

(Mr. Higgins then read extracts from a letter from Mr. Mowat to Judge Swan, in which Mr. Mowat stated his belief that not more than twenty-five per cent of the fish entering the river for spawning purposes and which were allowed to spawn, lived to get back to sea.)

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Have you ever seen many fish here floating down the river dead?—A. Oh, in fishing you will often get a number, that is towards the latter part of the run you will

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get odd ones, but very few sockeyes. There is a fish coming in—the “dog-salmon or quallah”—at first it is very bright but after a while it gets covered with fungus and look as if they were rotten. These and the humpbacks are worse-looking coming down the river. They get in the back of the net and when you pull it in you think the fish are dead, but they are alive though looking rotten. Sockeyes though seldom go back unless wounded or hurt.

Q. But have you ever seen good, sound salmon in June, July, or August floating down dead?—A. I have seen an odd one that has dropped out of the net—a heavy one will occasionally drop out of the net.

Q. But you have never seen any numbers of salmon floating down the river dead?—A. I have seen dead ones once in a while.

Q. Have you known any quantity of salmon being thrown away?—A. Not in later years: in former years a great number were thrown away, but not lately. Four years ago there was a very large run of fish. They got too many on hand and they asked us to stop for a day or two, and we stopped to give them a chance to clear up the cannery, &c.

Q. Then you say they threw away fish some years ago, but not now?—A. Yes, but not now.

Q. What about the spring salmon—they are white and red, are they not? What is done with the white?—A. They are generally given away to the Indians. We often salt them and sell them for what we can get.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. You know the steel-head?—A. Yes, what we call the salmon trout.

Q. Are they very destructive?—A. I consider them a salmon and one of the salmon family, only just a different species. They are a superior fish and some esteem them the finest fish that came into this river. The cannery don't care about using them for the simple reason that the bone of the steel-head is harder than others and requires more boiling and therefore cannot be put up with other fish.

Q. Are trout injurious to spawn?—A. Yes, I know trout are.

Q. Then should the trout be cleaned out?—A. Well, as far as salmon are concerned, but I don't think the anglers would like that.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Never mind the anglers; we are here to look after the fishermen.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Do you think trout destroy spawn by eating it?—A. No; I think not; I don't think they eat it.

Q. The humpback salmon—they are caught along with the last run of sockeyes, are they not?—A. Well, they come in after the sockeyes—in between them and the cohoes.

Q. When humpbacks are caught along with sockeyes what are done with the humpbacks?—A. Oh, they are thrown away—you cannot do anything with them.

Q. Are they numerous?—A. Well, some years they are. I don't know whether they are of the same salmon family—the male is not at all like the salmon, though the female is. The male has a great hump and the scales are different, being as fine as any trout scales.

Q. Do you know that salmon undergo great changes in the river to what they are in the sea?—A. Yes; but these fish are very changed, there is but little difference.

Q. Then the humpbacks are sacrificed for a few sockeyes?—A. Yes; for sockeyes and cohoes. They come in differently from the salmon—they come in every third year, not every fourth year like the sockeye. Then they come in so strong you are glad to get rid of them in the best way you can, for they destroy your nets.

Mr. WILMOT.—Gentlemen, I may say that I ask these questions for knowledge, as I am not aware of the habits of these fish, and it has been represented to the department that great numbers of these fish are thrown away because they are not used for canning purposes, and I desire to find out for the department all the information we can gather in connection with the sources of fish food in British Columbia rivers.

Mr. HIGGINS and Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Certainly, Mr. Wilmot, certainly.

Mr. HOLLIDAY.—About the humpback, it is not that they are thrown away simply because cannerymen will not use them—they are of no use to any one else, except the Indians. They prefer them to any other of the salmon fishes, but the white people won't have them.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Are you of the opinion that young salmon would be at all engaged in eating up offal under the canneries?—A. I never saw any of them. I have seen them haul up these little fish and pile them up by the bucketful, but I never saw any young salmon among them.

Q. Well, now, sir, have you anything further you desire to state?—A. No; I think not. I think I have touched on all the points of importance in the industry.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well, thank you, sir, that will do.

D. H. PORT, a native of Ontario, a resident of New Westminster for five years, and a fish-dealer, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, Mr. Port, we will be pleased to hear what you have to say.—A. Well, I have not prepared anything particular to say, but if you have any questions to ask me on any matters, I would prefer it that way and I will state my views as I go along.

Q. Very well, sir. Now, what are your views as to the disposal and effects of the offal in the river?—A. As affecting the fish business, I don't think it is detrimental to the river. The river is very cold and pretty swift, and the offal is carried down to sea.

Q. You are from Ontario, are you not?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is the river colder than rivers in Ontario?—A. Yes, much colder.

Q. Have you any knowledge of the temperature of rivers in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick?—A. No, not any great knowledge, but I think it colder than eastern rivers, except some mountain streams.

Q. Can you say anything in regard to the comforts and convenience of the inhabitants—that is, in connection with this offal?—A. Well, I can't say much on that subject; I have not observed it from that point of view, but I don't think it would affect any one.

Q. Have you fished at the mouth of the river?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you seen offal there in the nets?—A. No, sir.

Q. It is then, you think, non-injurious as far as fish are concerned?—A. Not as far as fish are concerned. I don't know anything about it from a sanitary point of view.

Q. What is your view of the limitation of nets? Should there be a limitation to cannerymen or to fishermen?—A. I can simply give my opinion. I think that the protection of certain men or cannerymen by limiting the privileges of the river to them is unwise. I think if the industry will not pay a man to work, either as a fisherman or in a cannery, no one will work at it long.

Q. Then you think the license system should be thrown open to all?—A. Well, no, not to all, but to all residents and British subjects, with the judicious supervision of the inspector.

Q. Would you say that individual fishermen fishing with one boat should get a license, or would you give the privilege to all to get as many licenses as they liked?—A. Well, I think if the canneries have the privilege of putting out as many boats as they like, the fishermen should have the same privilege.

Q. But has capital no special privilege?—A. Oh well, a cannery would not spend anything more than they can make profits out of any more than the markets would what they could afford.

Q. But if the canneries had 100 licenses each, could they not get all the fish they wanted?—A. Yes, but they would have to employ labour to get them.

Q. But would they not be in a position to control the whole fisheries of the river?—A. Oh, I don't think so—they have never done that in the past—before the limit was put on the cannerymen had the same rights—the thing would find its own level.

Q. Then do you think one license should go to the canner and one to each fisherman?—A. No, I think it should be this way: every fisherman and British subject, and every canneryman should be able to get as many licenses as they wish. If fishermen are enterprising and can afford to run two or three rigs, why, let them.

Q. But would not all combined be too much for the river to stand?—A. Well, the Government could look after that—the remedy would be the close time.

Q. That is just what this Commission is for. We want to get the amount of fishing on the river that is safe for the fishery?—A. Well, everyone wants to get licenses, but this is owing to the limit put upon them; they have, in consequence, a fictitious value and everyone naturally wants to get one. I was here in '87-'88 and then everybody who wanted a license could get one.

Q. Is the principle not in vogue here that a canneryman gets out his own supplies of licenses, say twenty, and then sends in names of Indians and others and uses them for the cannery?—A. Well, I suppose they do advance money to a good many fishermen.

Q. Then there is a sort of barter or sale of licenses after they are issued?—A. Yes, there is.

Q. Do you think it is wise to have a Sunday close season?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you think it sufficient as it is now?—A. I think it sufficient as at present, under existing circumstances—if the boats were double the close season would have to be enlarged.

Q. Then too excessive fishing would injure the river?—A. Yes; I think too much would hurt it. I think this: the amount of salmon actually caught by boats in this river and used, as far as we can find out from the fishery office returns, is very, very small in comparison with the numbers that go up the river.

Q. What record have you of those that go up the river?—A. Only our observation.

Q. But no facts?—A. No; I suppose a couple of millions of salmon would cover everything that is caught, even in a year like 1889, and yet that must be but a part of those that go on up.

Q. How do you know?—A. I speak of observation in the matter. In '89 I was up the river—at the last station on the river—and I know salmon were so thick there that the few that were taken out was simply nothing.

Q. What do you think of an annual close season?—A. I don't think it would apply here, as we are never allowed to fish on the spawning beds.

Q. Neither are they anywhere else?—A. Well, what I mean is the salmon only run in certain times—the sockeye in July and August, and the weekly close time I consider at present sufficient, and after the end of August the run is pretty well over and the canneries filled, or if not filled they have done work.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Do you think the first run coming up should be bred? Do you believe in artificial breeding?—A. Yes, I do; but I don't know if it makes much difference which kind you breed.

Q. Do you think the hatchery has been of any benefit to the river?—A. Well, I cannot say clearly on the subject; however, I think that enough has been proven in favour of the hatchery to warrant the continuance and perhaps even the extension of the work, but I have not been here as long yet as others to see.

Q. Do you fish yourself or employ others?—A. I employ others.

Q. How many licenses had you last year?—A. Ten.

Q. What as?—A. A freezer.

Q. The fish that are caught for you are frozen?—A. Frozen or shipped in ice.

Q. The whole fish goes away then does it not?—A. Yes; they go away whole.

Q. You have no offal, then?—A. No, sir, none at all.

Q. In the canning business a large proportion of the fish is thrown away; with the freezing process that is not the case?—A. No, sir.

Q. Is the freezing business growing or decreasing?—A. It is increasing, though it has been difficult this last year to do our work.

Q. Do you ship spring or sockeye salmon?—A. Spring salmon.

Q. What do you do with white salmon?—A. Well, they are of little value—we sell them.

Q. What are done with the white ones caught in the net?—A. There is no discrimination.

Q. How do you tell before bringing the salmon in?—A. The difference cannot very well be told without cutting them to see—though some fishermen can tell.

Q. What is your opinion as to what is done with white salmon caught in the net and known to be white?—Well, very few are thrown away—not 10 per cent of white are caught. We have found out during the last few years that so many white salmon come up in the fall that we don't fish the run. If circumstances were such as we could get white salmon in competition with codfish, or other cheap fish, we might do something, but the carriage is so great we cannot compete with the low grades of fish.

Q. Then your business does not hurt the river with any offal?—A. No, sir.

Q. You are not engaged in the canning business?—A. No; entirely in the freezing line. I have been listening to the discussion to-day and two or three times it has touched upon the fish dying after going up the river, and I would like to say a word upon that. In Mr. Mowat's letter I think you stated that he contented that salmon going to the Selkirk Mountains do not return. I must bear him out in that. I don't think that 10 per cent or 15 per cent come back from those high waters. The fish that do not go so far I think return in greater numbers.

Mr. WILMOT.—As evidence our overseers have marked fish which have been found next year.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Do you consume all the fish you catch with ten boats?—A. In most cases I did mainly—for a week or two during the height of the sockeye run it would be impossible to consume them all.

Q. What do you do with them?—A. We use all we can and then lay up our boats if the quantity brought in is too great.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. What might you get per pound for the salmon you send east to Toronto?—A. It runs from 12 cents up to 30 cents.

Q. Then an eight pound fish would be 96 cents. Now, if that same fish were canned it would be worth about 40 or 50 cents, would it not? Now, it appears the freezer not only makes no offal but gets a better price for the whole fish. Well, Mr. Port, have you anything further to tell us?—A. No, I think not just now.

JOHN BUIE, a resident of New Westminster, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. It has been stated, Mr. Buie, that you can give some information upon the questions under consideration here. Are you prepared to give us it—if not, perhaps you would prefer being questioned?—A. Well, it might be better to ask me the questions.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. You were formerly fishery guardian, were you not?—A. Yes, for a number of years.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. What are your views as to the throwing in of the offal, Mr. Buie?—A. Well, really my views did not coincide with Mr. Mowat's. My own views are that it is almost impossible that it can be detrimental to fish. As a nuisance to the inhabitants, that is another matter, but I do not think it is hurtful to fish. Last night I was here and heard some stating that it was detrimental to fish, and I made a little calculation.

Knowing the amount of water that goes down the river, I consider that the offal would not be one-half an ounce to a tank full of water the size of this room—(the Commission was sitting in a large room),—and that pure running water that does not go above 50 degrees in the summer time opposite this city.

Q. I suppose you are aware that a drop of prussic acid, if put in a bucket of water would have a bad effect?—A. Yes; but I still think that that would be even a bigger proportion than the offal in the river. It has a width of over 900 yards and over a depth of 20 feet and flows at the rate of four miles an hour.

Q. Then all the fish that die up the rivers would not affect it either?—A. It might affect it if on the spawning beds, but I cannot imagine how it can affect fish life in the river below here.

Q. But it might be injurious from a sanitary point of view—for instance, where offal lodges?—A. That is my conclusion.

Q. Have you known of its effects upon nets at the mouth of the river?—A. I never heard of complaints till last night. It is possible it might so affect the nets, but I never heard of it.

Q. What do you think of the limitation of licenses on the Fraser River?—A. Well, when I was on the river for about a year I thought then the river was liable to be overfished, but the more I saw of fishing and the manner and way it was conducted, and the more I became acquainted with the Fraser, I thought the danger was less than I had imagined.

Q. Why did you change your mind on that question?—A. Because I used to think the nets would drag nearer the bottom, but after I saw men fishing I saw it was impossible to prevent the salmon coming in at the mouth of the river, no matter how many boats they put on. Each boat that undertakes to drift but wants a clear way and you cannot put them beyond a certain closeness.

Q. Then the nets no matter how placed would not prevent enough fish from reaching the spawning beds?—A. Well, of course they are thinned out they must be. The question is, what would be the percentage of all the fish that come in that would be enough for breeding purposes. Whatever the decrease may be and however small the run it would be a surprise to the Commission if they were at Harrison River and see the numbers coming to spawn. The little lake looks also as if simply covered and the fish seem innumerable.

Q. Then you think the present amount of fishing by nets anywhere on the river is not severely detrimental, but to an extent it is detrimental?—A. No; I would not say that—I think it not at all detrimental.

Q. Well, you say scarcely enough go up to breed?—A. No, I don't say that.

Q. Would you consider it detrimental if as many again of licenses were issued on the river?—A. Well, I think the number of licenses issued does not control the amount of fish at all. Now, out on the sand heads they are just as thick as they can be when the fish are coming in, and before high water the fish are bound to come in—before, they cannot get through on account of the nets, but once they get in the river, they are in the channels too deep for the nets to catch them.

Q. Would it be detrimental if 1,200 licenses were issued—say there are 600 now?

A. Well, Mr. Wilmot, you don't understand it. If there was room for 1,200 nets they could fish the river just as well as now, and I don't think it would be injurious; it would be simply compelling them to have more boats and nets and not catching more fish.

Q. You would have no limitation then, either to cannery, freezers or fishermen?

A. I would not say there should be any limitation—it is not required. Let them have as many licenses as the people want, both cannery, freezers and fishermen.

Q. What do you think of the Sunday close time?—A. If there is any doubt of the number of boats overfishing the river, the weekly close time would compensate for it. I believe in the Sunday close season, that is even if that number of nets would have an injurious effect, the Sunday close season would open the gate for the fish anyway. Perhaps I may make myself plainer by saying that the Sunday close season and also the close season for sockeyes as now, would be quite sufficient for insuring a sufficient number of fish for going up the river.

Q. Well, then, how about an annual close season?—A. Well, the fish in passing up in the same day get beyond the fishing limit before spawning. There is a close season for sockeye-salmon now and which I think is a very good thing in protecting the last run of sockeyes that come in. We had in one year, from the 25th August to 15th September, or all of September. These were instructions from the department, and it was stipulated in the licenses for some years.

Q. You are acquainted with the description of nets used, are you not, Mr. Buie?
A. Yes; I know them.

Q. Five and a half inches extension—that is the law, is it not?—A. Yes; that is the law. It is the best mesh for catching the sockeye, and it would not be profitable to use a less size—salmon would not gill.

Q. Would it be injurious to use a smaller net?—A. Well, I don't know that the injury would amount to much, because the salmon do not come here as grilse. When the sockeye come here they are full-grown and matured, and though sometimes of smaller size—for instance, in the year of a big run twelve or thirteen fish are required to make a case of canned salmon, where ten would do in an off year, and even if the mesh was reduced, nothing would be caught except matured fish.

Q. So you think 5½ inch the right mesh for catching sockeyes?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you a knowledge of the two modes of fishing—gill-nets and seines?—A. Seines are used in salt water; they are not used on the rivers at all.

Q. Would it be just for a net three and a half inches in mesh to be fished in salt water while five and three-quarters is used in the rivers?—A. Well, I don't think it would, probably on account of other fish.

Q. You think five and three-quarters would catch young fish?—A. No; I don't think that.

Q. Why?—A. Because my impression is that the young salmon do not return here in any quantities.

Q. Do you think a seine would catch a greater number of fish than a gill-net?—A. Well, a gill-net would not catch fish where a seine would. The gill-net is used on rivers for drifting, and seines in salt water; they are not used on the Fraser River.

Q. In your experience as a fishery officer do you think the fishing limit in the river should be shortened. It now runs up to Pitt River bridge, and to North Hammond, on the main river?—A. Oh, I don't think it would be necessary to shorten it.

Q. Well, at the mouth, do you think it should be shortened where all the boats are?—A. Oh, I don't know, fish play at the mouth of the river.

Q. Do you think it a very destructive place?—A. There is no doubt a great many are caught there.

Q. And thus prevent fish from getting up the river?—A. Oh, yes; especially when fish are scarce. I have known them to have all the boats fishing, even up to "Bon Accord," and each boat to catch 400 or 500 fish.

Q. Well, Mr. Buie, if you have nothing further to tell us now, I think we have touched on most all the points?—A. Yes; no, I have nothing further just now.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I want to ask Inspector McNab about persons who get licenses other than British subjects. Can you give us any information about these parties, Mr. McNab?

Mr. McNAB.—I do not know of any but those who hold licenses as British subjects. There is one man who has got licenses for a number of years back. I was given to understand last year after he got his license that he had moved away and was a resident of Washington Territory, in the United States.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Is his name down for a license this year?—A. No.

Q. That is the only one you know?—A. That is the only one I know of.

Q. Can you point out on your books any men getting licenses who are not fishermen—men who get licenses year after year?—A. Well, there is R. B. Kelly.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I have known Mr. Kelly for a number of years. He is a resident of Westminster Junction. I know him very well.

Mr. McNAB.—Mr. Kelly has held a license now for three years,—one license each year.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Do you know of any others?—A. George Robertson, license 124, he has not been a fisherman for the last two years.

Q. Has he taken out a license every year?—A. He had no license in 1890.

Q. What does he do?—A. He is a warden in the penitentiary.

Q. Have you ever received any instructions about issuing licenses?—A. Last year there were nine licenses in the office when I took it over, and all had been applied for in March.

Q. Are they transferable?—A. This year the licenses are marked "not transferable." In previous years they were transferred.

Q. Have you the book of licenses for last year with you, Mr. McNab?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Well, you might bring it here and let us go over the names with you, perhaps other cases might occur to you?—A. Very well, sir.

Mr. McNab then went over the list of last year's licenses, reading out the names of outsiders with whom he was not acquainted, and who in all cases except R. Morrison, of Vancouver, were recognized and specified as fishermen by persons present in the room. Mr. Morrison was stated to be a saloon-keeper.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Very well, that will do, Mr. McNab, thank you.

C. F. PRETTY, a native of Ontario, a resident of New Westminster for two years, a freezer and exporter of fish, was then duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. We will be glad to hear any remarks you may wish to make, Mr. Pretty.
—A. My main object in being here was to mention my views of the license system and to tell you what I think would be preferable to fishermen and cannerymen, and all interested therein, and also beneficial to the fisheries in general. It is as much to our object as any person. Firstly, my idea is to give licenses to every *bona fide* fisherman without limit, provided he is a British subject. That all cannerymen, freezers, salters, exporters, and such, should have a number of licenses limited to them and that that limit be considered in accordance with the quantity of fish they are capable of handling.

Q. Yes; but to limit the number of licenses to each of these business persons in accordance with the capacity of their establishment?—A. Exactly; a fair limit in that way would be to give them—say a cannery commands thirty licenses—well, I think they should have ten—that would be one-third, and they would be obliged to purchase two-thirds of their fish, which would give the fishermen a fair show. In the case of giving cannerymen all the licenses they wanted, they would not have to buy from the fishermen at all. I would not limit the outside licenses to fishermen—any British subject should have a license who applies for it.

Q. You think that would equalize the business?—A. Yes; I do. Twenty licenses, with their own in a good year—counting two good years in four—would give them all the fish they wanted.

Q. How do you think that would affect the present cannerymen and yourselves?—A. Well, I would be in the same position as the cannerymen. With the freezer I have at present erected, I can handle 60,000 salmon yearly, and of course, I have to depend upon outside fishermen as well as the cannerymen, and it would simply put us on the same footing, whereas, if we had all we want, we would hire Chinamen and others at less wages, and so monopolize the trade. But I think the fishermen should give us two-thirds of our fish. I don't want to monopolize the trade, and our fishermen should get a fair chance.

Q. In your estimation then, the trade hitherto has been a monopoly?—A. To a certain extent. If you give a large number of licenses to cannerymen and other establishments, they will certainly take but little from the fishermen, if any. As to their own boats, of course they should hire who they like to operate their ten boats.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Do you clean your fish before you send them off?—A. No, sir; we send the whole fish.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What kind do you send?—A. It is my intention to use all kinds.

Q. Where are your markets?—A. Australia and England are the markets I intend opening up.

Q. Have you sent any to Australia?—A. Not yet. I hope to this year. I have just erected my establishment here.

Q. Where were you in business before?—A. On the Great Lakes, in the whitefish and salmon trout trade.

Q. And how far in your operations there have you sent the frozen fish?—A. We have not sent them very far as yet; but we intend putting on refrigerator vessels and ship to all parts.

Q. Then you will open up a new trade?—A. That is our intention, if possible.

Q. What is the capacity of your establishment?—A. The one just completed will hold 40,000 salmon, and this will be filled probably twice or three times in the year—shipping them off by the freezing process. We also intend to build in Vancouver, for traffic in the salt water fish, and will also take salmon from this river to Vancouver—that is, from the mouth of the river.

Q. Have you been doing this business here before?—A. I had the licenses I got last year and used them.

Q. And were the fish you caught, frozen?—A. No, sir; they were sold to the canners. I was simply learning about the river before going into the new business.

Q. How many licenses had you last year?—A. I had two.

Q. What number of fish did you obtain from two licenses?—A. They averaged 3,500 a boat in the sockeye run.

Q. Then with ten licenses you will get 30,000 to 40,000 fish?—A. Well, it is calculated this year will be even a poorer year than last year. Our capacity is 40,000 fish.

Q. Then ten boats would fill your establishment?—A. Oh, we might fill it two or three times in the season, but it depends.

Mr. WILMOT (to Mr. McNab).—Do you know where Mr. Port ships his fish?

Mr. McNAB.—To England and Germany.

Mr. WILMOT (to Mr. Pretty).—Have you any other observations to make, say, on the close season? What do you think of the weekly time?

Mr. PRETTY.—I think the time should be from Saturday morning at 6 o'clock to Monday morning at 6 o'clock, if the canners wish it.

Q. But would you object to commencing at 1 o'clock on Monday morning?—A. In that case the fishermen would start on Sunday night, but if it was fixed at Monday morning they would not commence until then.

Q. Well, then, on the same reasoning, if the time ended at 6 p.m., Sunday, it would take all the afternoon Sunday to get ready?—A. Oh, no; it does not take long to fix up the nets and boats.

Q. If the time was made till noon on Saturday would they have to work on Sunday?—A. No; I think not.

Q. Do the canners work after night?—A. I don't know. That is a question I am not prepared to answer.

Q. No? Oh, of course you are not in the canning business. Now, on the question of an annual close time?—A. I advocate no other close time except the Sunday time.

Q. Then would not that mean that at a certain season of the year you would be putting an unwholesome fish upon the market; for, of course you are aware that at certain seasons of the year all fish when approaching the time of spawning become unwholesome as food?—A. No; not at all, we must put good fish on the market or we lose our trade.

Q. But would fish be in good condition when in an advanced state of spawning?

—A. We do not put up any fish but what will sell, and we have to go by the market. We don't send them fresh at these times, we salt them.

Q. But then you are sending to the market unwholesome food for the public?
A. Well, I don't know about that. I would not advocate any annual close season during which we could not catch any fish. At the spawning time they are beyond the fishing limit; we cannot fish for them, and I don't see why there should be any annual close season.

Q. Yes; of course there is, perhaps, a difference down here in a limit being placed upon the river at certain points, but how are your fish kept—in cold storage?
A. They are frozen and then kept in cold storage.

Q. Yes; well now, I think we have gone over the matter pretty well. Is there anything else you wish to present to us?—A. No, sir; I think not at present.

W. H. VIENNA, a native of Holland, a fisherman, and resident of New Westminster and British Columbia for thirty-five years, was duly sworn.

Gentlemen, I have but very few remarks to make, and they are in regard to the rotting of the nets in the river. I do not fish down below, but here opposite the town, the same rotting of the nets occurs.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. What is the cause of this rotting of the nets? A. Catching the fish in the warm weather, and then some don't use them properly.

Q. Well, with regard to the offal in the river—what is your opinion as to its effects?—A. Oh, I think the small fish take it and eat it up just as fast as it comes down from the canneries—trout, chub, perch, suckers, and all kinds like that.

Q. Do you think the Chinamen are beneficial for destroying these fish?—A. Oh, well, they never come to my place to catch only, because they won't buy, and I won't have them around the place. If a Chinaman comes to my place to catch those small fish, and I know he never buys anything from me, I don't let him do any fishing.

Q. Oh, I see, not a customer, eh?—A. No, sir; Chinamen are not much customers anywhere.

Q. Do you ever get any offal rotting in your net?—A. No; not up here.

Q. What about the number of licenses to be given on the river?—A. Oh, I think every person who applies for a license should get one, that is if he is an actual fisherman.

Q. You don't think then that hotel-keepers or grocers should speculate in getting licenses and selling them to fishermen?—A. No; he should be an actual fisherman.

Q. And the one license would be sufficient? A. Yes; for shipping or selling, I think the one license would be sufficient.

Q. What about the limitation of licenses to canners or freezers?—A. Well, I don't think they want any less than at present.

Q. Well, but would you give them unlimited numbers? A. No; I would give them according to the size of the cannery—if a big one, many; if a small one, few; some canneries are double others.

Q. Then you think every British subject and actual fisherman should get licenses, and that the canners should get them according to the size of their establishments?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you think twenty licenses too many for the canneries at present?—A. No; I don't think it too many.

Q. You and your brother fishermen would not complain?—A. I think not, sir.

Q. What do you think of the Sunday close time? A. It is a good thing. We all want Sunday to ourselves; I think it is a very good law.

Q. Do you think there should be any limitation as to place for fishing at the mouth of the river—do you think it a more dangerous place?—A. Well, we are divided on that. Sometimes we catch just as many fish here as at the mouth. After Sunday night, on Monday, we get more fish up here than anywhere, which shows that the fish have had a chance to get up.

Q. Are more boats fishing at the mouth than here?—A. Yes; I would consider it about six to one.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. When nets are stretched across the lower river do you find many fish come into yours?—A. Yes; apparently just as many—it depends a good deal on the tide.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. How many meshes deep do you fish?—A. Forty and fifty; it is very deep water just off here.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. What do you think of giving licenses to Indians who apply?—A. I have no objection, provided they buy their own boat and net. As a general rule the cannery advance money for these and so control the Indians.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, but if both white men and Indians are furnished with money by the cannery, how then?—A. Oh, well, if all are on the same footing it will be all right. There is one thing I would like to suggest about the white salmon. For some years I have bought all the white salmon I could get; I buy them cheap and ship them to the east to Winnipeg, Brandon, Kamloops, and other places, and of course if we sell them cheap enough we get rid of them.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Do you think white salmon as good as sockeyes?—A. For myself I like them very much better.

Q. Are the cannery the only people who will not use white salmon?—A. No; they don't use them—some have tried it. Mr. Holbrook tried it but there is no sale for them; still, they are a nicer fish.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes; I know in Victoria people won't take a sockeye if they can get a white salmon, but of course the desire of the market governs.

Mr. VIENNA. We used to label them here lake trout, but still it appears that people do not care for them, they prefer the red colour. Mr. Brodie tried canning white salmon also, but I don't think it paid.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, sir, have you anything further to state?—A. No, sir.

SAMUEL DAWE, a native of Newfoundland, a fisherman, and resident of New Westminster for two years, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, sir, I suppose we may proceed with the usual series of questions as in the case of other witnesses. What are your ideas in regard to the disposition of the fish offal in the river?—A. Well, sir, my ideas are that with regard to fish I do not think it much injurious.

Q. Well, regarding the benefit to the health or otherwise of the inhabitants?—A. I believe it injurious to the health of a person who drinks the water from the river. I just speak from what I find myself, and I know that I cannot get the same good health since drinking the water, and the stench from under the canneries is something frightful, especially when the tide is low, and every fisherman has got to drink this water along the edge of the river, and I know it affects us.

Q. Has it any effects, do you know, upon the cattle or any animals along the river?

A. I have no cattle; I am not a farmer, still I do think it injurious to the health of persons working on the river.

Q. At and about the canneries, then, offal causes a great stench and unpleasantness?

A. Yes.

Q. You are a fisherman, you say?—A. Yes; I fish for the markets off the town, and in the sockeye season I fish at the mouth of the river.

Q. Has the offal, in your opinion, affected your nets in any way?—A. No; not at all.

Q. Or made any lodgment down there?—A. Oh, no; we see nothing but the little wind-bag which floats and this sometimes lodges in the nets.

Q. But you don't see anything else?—A. No; not at all.

Q. What do you think of the limitation of the number of nets?—A. I think there should be a limit.

Q. In what way?—A. There should be a certain number of nets. I don't say it should be open to everybody. I have no license myself, but I know at the mouth of the river there are as many boats as can fish there.

Q. Have you any idea why you do not get a license?—A. No; I have been told by the inspector that no licenses were granted to new-comers, but only to old licensees who had licenses before.

Q. You thought that a hardship?—A. I did think so and especially when so many licenses are given to cannerymen and freezers, fish markets and others, it is very hard that fishermen should have so few. They should have a fair share, say two-thirds of the licenses.

Q. You think an undue proportion of the boats fishing fish at the mouth of the river?—A. Well, no more could be accommodated—as many as can fish are there now.

Q. But when the present number is 500 how could you expect to get a license?—A. Well, I think the cannerymen and market people should be deprived of some and they should be given to the fishermen and persons who come here to settle. I don't mean to say that 500 is enough—I would increase that number, so that a fair number could go to the fishermen, while I would not throw the river open to everyone.

Q. Well, who would be the person not to get one?—A. Well, I cannot say—I speak for the protection of the fish.

Q. You think, then, the present number of boats at the mouth interferes with the fish coming up the river?—A. Yes; and I believe if it was thrown open, the 500 would soon be 2,500.

Q. Are you interested with regard to the close season at all?—A. Yes; I would like to see the Sunday close season close until the Sunday was over, not three-quarters of it, for as far as I can see about the Sunday not half of it is kept. Men get to work to get boats ready and get out on the river and wait until the time.

Q. Then you think the whole Sunday should be taken in?—A. I do; I have not fished these two years and I don't see it makes any difference to me. I think the same number of fish would be caught as if they did work on the Sunday.

Q. What mesh do you use? I mean in depth?—A. Forty meshes.

Q. And you think too many boats at the mouth of the river is harmful to the river fisheries?—A. Yes.

Q. And that there are too many boats there now?—A. Well, I would not say too many. I think there is as many now as should be. I may say I have been working for the cannerymen and have been treated very unfairly by them. I only got 10 cents for my fish, whereas the man who has his own license and boat gets 20 cents, but this last season I only got $6\frac{1}{2}$ cents, the rest being taken off for to pay for the boat and net. This only leaves $3\frac{1}{4}$ cents for myself and partner. If I had a license myself I could have sold to any one I liked.

Q. Was this the arrangement made before starting?—A. Oh, yes, we made the arrangement, but if the cannerymen had a larger number of licenses they would treat us and other fishermen even worse.

Q. And you have applied for two years past for the licenses?—A. Yes, and I have applied this year.

Q. And you had to go and fish for the canneries and take just what they wished to give you?—A. Yes, just what they wished to give me.

Q. Do you think that the licenses should be transferable?—A. No.

Q. It should be then to the actual fisherman, freezer or canner?—A. Well, the canneries, of course they hire us to fish for them under their licenses, but others should not be transferable.

Q. Do you see many dead fish when you are fishing?—A. No, not many.

Q. Well, you see some?—A. Yes, some.

Q. When do you see them, during the sockeye run?—A. Yes, but not a great many—they seem to have received injuries.

Q. Do you fish after the sockeye run?—A. No, because the canneries are closed down.

Q. And if you had licenses for yourself you could go on fishing for humpbacks, &c.?—A. Oh, we don't want the humpbacks.

Q. About how many fishermen—white men—are there on the river?—A. I could not give any idea.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Are there a hundred?—A. Oh, yes, there are a hundred, perhaps two hundred would be an outside figure.

Q. Is the majority of fishermen employed by the canners, or with their own boats?—A. For the canneries.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, two men to the boat would give one thousand men.—A. Well, Indians fish four men to the boat. I cannot tell the number of white men—I never thought particularly of that—quite a number of Japanese fish on the river.

Q. Well, there were 580 odd boats last year—that would be about 1,160 men, of which you think only two hundred were white men?—A. Well, perhaps that would be about the number—I don't know though—there are only about fifty licenses given to white men, that is white fishermen—more than forty go to the Indians on the Fraser River.

Q. Well, sir, have you anything further?—A. No, I think I have stated all I wished to.

The Chairman thereupon declared the Commission adjourned at 5.30 p.m., to meet again in the City Hall at 7.30 p.m.

20th February, 1892.

The Commission reassembled in the City Hall, New Westminster, at 7.30 p.m.

Present:—Mr. S. Wilmot, presiding; Messrs. Higgins and Armstrong, and the Secretary.

Mr. D. J. Munn handed in the following letter, which was read and ordered to be inserted in the minutes of proceedings, and to be taken as part of that gentleman's evidence given during the day:

"NEW WESTMINSTER, 16th November, 1891.

"JOHN McNAB, Esq.,

"Inspector of Fisheries for British Columbia.

"DEAR SIR,—In response to your request of the 3rd instant, I, with pleasure, now submit you the information I received in regard to salmon when on my recent visit to Lillooet and to Seton Lake.

"The lake is drained by a stream called Seton River, which is about a mile in length; thence into Cayouse Creek and on a distance of two miles to the Fraser River.

"At the time I was there the streams were at a normal height. Some Indians were then scooping out salmon for a winter's supply, and I examined them carefully. They proved to be sockeye salmon, nearly all of which were female but contained no ova. They were very spare and discoloured, and though quite numerous were all endeavouring, apparently, to reach the lake.

"On the river banks was a mass of decomposing humpback salmon, and I learned from Mr. H. Keary, that these had started to come in about the 12th of September, and ceased about the 1st of October. There was an unusually heavy run of them this year. As you are aware, it was the 6th or 7th of September when these fish were notable for quantity in the lower Fraser River, and the marvellous rapidity of their ascent through the cañons, against the rapids of the Fraser is thus pretty clearly indicated. The quinnat, or spring salmon moves towards the lake in an indifferent quantity from May until July, when the sockeyes make their appearance and continue up to the latter part of August. The second or fall run of sockeyes, such as I observed, have appeared only in every alternate fourth year, and after the humpback run off this particular year is over. They are always inferior in quality and appearance to the regular summer run of sockeye salmon.

"At the point of effusion from Seton Lake into Seton River the exit is narrow, shallow and the water fairly swift. Here the Indians congregate and scoop up immense quantities of sockeye salmon fry in the month of May, when these are leaving the lake and probably heading for the salt water. These salmon fry are sun-dried and stored for winter use. The Indian agent for the district, Capt. Mason, kindly procured some of them for me. They measured in length an average of about four and a half inches, with a proportionate thickness of body. The agent, I was told, endeavoured to impress upon the Indians the disastrous consequences of the wholesale slaughter of these fish, and admonished them to quit the practice for their own sakes, which he expected would be done. I inquired of various people in that vicinity about the quantity of fry leaving the lake, which they say occurs when the spring freshets are well under way, and they one and all agree that the quantity of fry going down is large or small in proportion to the quantity of sockeye salmon entering the lake the year previous. This would indicate that the fry are about seven months old when they depart for salt water. The trout here find no allurements in the angler's bait during the months of September, October and November, or while salmon ova is in abundance.

"The two consecutive heavy and two off runs of sockeye salmon have been regular, with one exception—1888—since the days of the miners in 1858, and back into the traditions of starvation years among the natives. It is also asserted by the closest and most intelligent observers here, that the run of salmon in recent years has if anything increased.

"I may add that this section of the country affords a most favourable opportunity for investigation into the habits of the salmon frequenting these waters and for collection of data, valuable from a scientific standpoint.

"The doubt, for instance, as to whether salmon ever return to salt water after having made ample provision against the extinction of their species by the deposit of their ova, could on Seton River be proved beyond dispute, and this strange and interesting phase of fatality conclusively determined. Observation would also add greatly to the knowledge we now possess of the young fry, by comparing those artificially hatched with those produced under natural conditions, and many other matters of information essential to a proper understanding of the conditions of supply, could be easily obtained, thus giving zest to further interesting research and inquiry.

(Sgd.) "D. J. MUNN."

JARED C. WESTON, a native of Nova Scotia, a fisherman by occupation, and resident of New Westminster for several years, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well sir, have you any statement to make in regard to the fisheries of this province, or kindred matters?—A. I would rather if you would ask me questions, sir.

Q. Well, if you have any particular point?—A. I would prefer speaking on that afterwards.

Q. Very well. What do you think of the effects of throwing large quantities of offal in the river?—A. I don't think it interferes at all with the fish.

Q. But with regard to health and from a sanitary standpoint?—A. Well, as regards myself, I cannot complain about drinking water, but I know that lots of fishermen have been in hospital as a result of drinking the water, and have had typhoid fever, &c.

Mr. HIGGINS. Water from near the canneries?—A. Oh, anywhere from the mouth up.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Do you find much offal lodged about?—A. Yes; I find lots, and get it in my nets.

Q. Where do you fish?—A. In the sockeye run, down at the mouth of the river.

Q. Do you notice the offal in shallow water?—A. No.

Q. What effect has it upon your nets?—A. I don't know as it has any. It may make them dirty.

Q. Do nets in that condition prevent fish entering them?—A. No; a man washes his net often—in fact, every chance he gets.

Q. Then, on the whole, it is not injurious to fish entering the river?—A. No; I don't think so.

Q. Well, then, as to health—what effect do you think the offal has?—A. I think it injurious.

Q. And some diseases may, in your opinion, such as typhoid fever, be brought about by this offal being thrown into the river? You say some fishermen have been sick?—A. Yes; several have been in hospital.

Q. What are your views as regards the limitation of nets?—A. As regards canners and freezers I would like to see them get no more than one license each, also salters; but fishermen who work their own boats, I believe every British subject should get a license who requires one.

Q. Then all *bonâ fide* fishermen, being British subjects, should get licenses?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. With regard to the close season, what are your views?—A. Well, I think it just as good as it is with the exception that if rules are made, I would like to see it started at 12 o'clock on Saturday to Monday morning at 6. That would give canners a chance to clean up, and if they were getting too much fish, they could stop their boats.

Q. Then you are quite of the belief that Sunday should be kept wholly both in the interests of morality and the interests of the fisheries?—A. Yes.

Q. If the close season is established at those hours, the canners would adapt themselves to the circumstances, would they?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What about an annual close time—you know in Nova Scotia there is an annual close season?—A. I left home twenty years ago—there was not much talk of salmon fishing there then.

Q. But what is your view here as to an annual close time?—A. Well, I should think when the salmon are ready to spawn, fishing should be stopped, say from the 25th of August up to 25th September, or end of September.

Q. Would that give an annual close time sufficient for the protection of the fish?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What come in after the end of September?—A. Cohoes, and we are not allowed to fish for spring salmon through the winter.

Q. Are the spring salmon in the river in the winter?—A. Well, I think so. I have known Siwashes to catch steel-heads along in January for their own use up river.

Q. You have never taken any yourself?—A. No, sir.

Q. You think it advisable that some restriction should be placed on the excessive fishing at the mouth of the river, do you not?—A. No, sir, I don't.

Q. But the boats congregate there very largely, don't they?—A. Well, yes, they are pretty thick, but if the boats are too thick to catch fish they go farther up the river.

Q. If the boats were lessened in number, would not more fish go up the river?—A. Well, I don't know but it would be that way.

Q. Is the exact mouth of the river where netting is carried on, very narrow—more there than farther up?—A. Yes; I think it is. Still, the salmon go in with the tides all over the sands. Canoe Pass is also a big fishing place and fishing goes on right out to the edge of the Gulf.

Q. What number of meshes do you say you fish?—A. Forty meshes. I have not had the pleasure of owning a net yet. I have applied for licenses but never got them.

Q. How many years have you been here?—A. Six years—I have applied for three years.

Q. What excuse did they give you?—A. Because I never had one before. I could have had one in 1888, but I put it off too long, and then the licenses were limited.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Are you aware of any men getting licenses who were not fishermen?—A. Yes; lots of them. I don't call Mr. Port or Mr. Vienna fishermen no more than the cannery are. Also a man named Miller from Washington Territory—he is a stranger and should not get one.

Q. Do you know of any others?—A. Well, I have only heard of others.

Q. Any saloon-keepers?—A. I have heard of them. I heard that Brennan, of the Cleveland Hotel, got one.

Q. Mr. McNab, can you tell us anything about this?

Mr. McNAB.—No one of the name of Brennan got a license last year.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Then I understand the proportion of licenses issued to persons like yourself and others would amount to 60 out of 580—that is what you complain of, is it not?—A. Yes, sir; I don't see how Mr. Port and Mr. Vienna get ten licenses. I don't think Mr. Port entitled, because the ten licenses are laid off when the fish come in heavy, and then in the sockeye run after the spring salmon are over, it will take but one or two boats perhaps to keep his establishment going.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. What does he do with his fish?—A. He sells them to the cannery.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. But is he not a freezer?—A. He has not frozen any fish to my knowledge during last year, and I have been working for Mr. Port for two springs, and to my knowledge he don't freeze any fish.

Q. Did you fish for him during the sockeye run?—A. No, sir; I would not work for him.

Q. Did he freeze any then?—A. No, sir. Mr. Port paid 8 cents for fish and Mr. Ewen was paying 20, so Mr. Port sold his to Mr. Ewen. All the freezers are the same.

Q. What is the difference between a spring salmon of about twenty pounds and a sockeye of from seven to eight pounds weight—that is, the difference in value?—A. Oh, it would be considerable. A spring salmon is worth all the way from 50 cents to \$1.25. They are often scarce.

Q. What is their usual size?—A. From fifteen to thirty pounds, on an average about twenty pounds generally.

Q. And with your experience in fishing, what would you say is about the average weight of the sockeye?—A. Some are small, some large, I never weighed them.

Q. Were you fishing in 1889?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. In 1890? That was a large year I think, was it not?—A. 1889 was a big year.

Q. What was 1890?—A. A good season.

Q. What was the average of fish that season?—A. I could not say—they were larger than in a big run—I should think they were about eight pounds.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. You never weighed any?—A. No, sir; I never did or saw one weighed.

Q. Do you know how many cans an eight-pound salmon would make? Four or five cans?—A. I should think it would make four cans anyway.

Q. And then if it made four or five cans the balance would be off?—Yes, sir.

Q. Is all that thrown away?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. But as a matter of fact you don't know how many cans a fish would make—you don't really know?—A. No, sir; as a matter of fact I don't really know, I have heard say they make that number.

Q. Is the run of sockeye salmon later in the season than formerly?—A. I don't know that it is.

Q. Not later than three or four years ago?—A. No, I don't know that it is.

Q. How long did you fish this year?—A. Fifteen or twenty days.

Q. How late in the season for the cannery?—A. To about the 15th or 20th of July.

Q. And how late the season before?—A. 25th August, I think. I am not certain exactly. Our cannery shut down earlier than most of the rest on account of the tins being exhausted.

Q. Well, now, what about the Indians getting licenses?—A. I think they should get licenses, too, if they pay for them and can furnish their own boats and nets the same as white men, but not apply for a license and then get the cannerymen to pay for it.

Q. How are you going to avoid that?—A. Let him show his license, the inspector is on the river.

Q. The boat you fished with, was it under a boat license belonging to Mr. Port?—A. Not this summer. This summer I fished for a man named Boutillier.

Q. Is Boutillier here?—A. No, I think not; his partner was here this afternoon.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. About this typhoid fever, are you quite sure it comes from the water?—A. Well, I think it was from that—my partner was sick and I considered it was from that.

Q. Did he die?—A. No, sir.

Q. Where did he live, in town or on a scow?—A. Oh, he lived in good condition, he was all right. I can tell you the fishermen on this river, if they can afford it, like to live well.

Q. Do many fishermen live in scows?—A. Yes, sir; a good many.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Where do they bring the scows at night?—A. Always in some place right close to the edge of the water.

Q. And if there is any impurity in the water he is sure to get it?—A. Yes, he is sure to get it.

Q. And yet you live there, you think it a proper place for men to live?—A. Well, we have nowhere else.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. How did you fish your boat this year?—A. On shares, I got 10 cents, divided between myself and partner, or 5 cents each.

Q. What was the market value of fish?—A. Well, I have heard it was 15 cents.

Q. When you got only 10 cents?—A. Yes.

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Q. What were salmon fetching that were sold to Mr. Boutillier by other people?

A. I don't know.

Q. Did you think you got the full value?—A. No, sir; I thought he was getting 20 cents while I was getting but 10.

Q. Well, is this a regular practice for freezers and salters who get licenses and hire men like you, to then go and sell the fish to the canners and give you only a share?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. If you had a boat of your own what would you have got?—A. Twenty cents.

Q. Have you seen dead salmon floating down the river?—A. I have seen a few in August.

Q. These salmon, in your opinion, would they be salmon that had been wounded or weakened and had then died—do you think they had been injured before death?—A. Well, I could not say. I think they had spawned, because they looked thin and narrow, but then we don't stop to investigate dead fish.

Q. What about these white salmon—the spring salmon are both white and red, are they not?—A. We get a few and salt them for our own use if the market don't take them. They will take them if you will give them to them for nothing.

Q. Who does that?—A. Mr. Port and Mr. Vienna.

Q. And so they take the red salmon and pay you for them, and the white salmon they only take for nothing?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Do you not think the white salmon a good fish?—A. Yes; I prefer them to the red.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Are they caught more or less all summer?—A. Yes; all summer.

Q. And are they marketable?—A. Not the white.

Q. Are there more of white than red?—A. Yes; often they are more plentiful.

Q. And you give them away?—A. Yes; often to Siwashas and others.

Q. Do you know any cases where white salmon were caught and thrown away?—A. No, sir; I would salt them before throwing them away. I would like to say that I think, on account of canners having so many licenses, that we fishermen should be given the preference on the river. Siwashas or white men should have first chance, then freezers, salters and canners, for as long as you issue twenty licenses to canners, when the big run comes the canners can get fish enough with their own boats and then they do not want the outside fishermen.

Q. Then the canners become monopolists?—A. Yes; we are prevented from earning our living.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. That is only during the big runs?—A. Yes; but if salmon continue as they did this year, it will be two or three years out of four.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. But is this not opposed to the prevailing theory?—A. Well, we have had good runs in consecutive years.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Would twenty boats be sufficient to supply the canners last year?—A. Yes, sir; the canner I fished for had twenty boats and three outside licenses, and then we had to shut down because we got too many fish. We had to lay off thirty-six hours in the middle of a week, that is thirty-six hours in the whole fishing season.

Q. What was the capacity of the cannery you worked for?—A. I have no idea—it was Ladner's cannery.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Do you think the canners should have any licenses? A. Well, if there are British subjects and resident fishermen enough to take up all, they should have none, or perhaps one each. They make lots of money, let them buy their fish.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Then you consider they should depend upon the fishermen for their fish?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Would you think it unfair to give the canners ten or fifteen licenses? They would depend upon the fishermen for the rest of their fish if they required more. A. Well, I don't object to the canners if the fishermen get their licenses, but I want to see the fishermen get their licenses first. The workingman on the river should get the first chance. Very nearly all the fishermen who get licenses stay here all the year round and they spend their money here, while, on the other hand, I know some canners who don't spend a cent. They spend it away elsewhere, and according to the amount they make the fishermen spend much more money in the country.

Q. But don't the canners spend a large amount of money—don't they pay wages to the people employed inside the cannery?—A. Yes; it is true they do, but you know very well where the money that is paid to Chinamen goes—that does not do any good to the country. Then many of them get their supplies from outside, they don't spend much money here for them.

Q. What do you mean by "supplies"? A. Well, the fishermen get all their food and supplies from the canneries during the season, and the canners get most everything from Victoria and even from San Francisco—these things are not got from resident people here.

Q. But do you not consider that the canners put capital—a good deal of money into the canneries?—A. Well, when a man makes \$90,000 in one season and—

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Are you prepared to state that on oath?—A. Oh, no; I am not, but I know it—it is pretty well known around here.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Oh, but we cannot take hearsay evidence.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, sir, is there anything further you wish to say?—A. No, I think not—we want to get licenses, that is the great trouble.

HARRY NELSON, a native of Norway, a fishermen, nine years in British Columbia, and a resident of New Westminster, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, sir, what have you to represent? A. I have made two applications for licenses—this year and the year before last, but could not get any license.

Q. What was the reason given you for that?—A. Because I had not had a license before.

Q. Whom did you fish for?—A. For Mr. Ewen last year, and the year before for Mr. Harlock.

Q. On what terms?—A. On shares this year.

Q. And you are not satisfied?—A. No, sir; I am not.

Q. Why?—A. Because during the sockeye run others who have licenses sell to the canners and get all the benefit—they get 20 cents for their fish while I get but 4 cents 8 cents between me and my partner. Mr. Port sells his fish all to the canners.

Q. Did he not freeze them?—A. No, sir.

Q. Then these licenses Mr. Port gets he only uses during the run of spring salmon, and then in the sockeye run he sells to the canners and employs you at 8 cents a fish?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Then your views would be that the outside fishermen should get the licenses?—
A. I think that every fisherman who is upon the river for two years should get licenses. I think they should be all taken from the canners and Mr. Port and Mr. Vienna and such others.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. But does not Mr. Vienna keep a fish market?—A. Yes, but he can buy all his fish from outside fishermen.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, now, what do you think as regards the offal?—A. I think it very injurious to the water. We have to drink it and it is very unhealthy. It is all very well to say many little fish eat it up, but I know the heads and tails get into the fishermen's nets—I have caught lots of them, and the stuff stinks awfully—a man cannot get within a mile of it with any comfort.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. What do you do with it?—A. Oh, I chuck it away again.

Q. And where does it go?—A. Oh, the tide takes it out.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Then you do think it injurious to the health of the inhabitants?—A. Yes, sir, I do. Cases of typhoid fever are plentiful down the river.

Q. Are there any cases above?—A. I don't know.

Mr. HIGGINS. —Well, but there is typhoid fever in Victoria and other places, in fact everywhere.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Where do you live? Do you live on a scow?—A. I live in a scow, yes.

Q. Where do you usually put it?—A. Oh, at different places along the river.

Q. Then you have the benefit of all injury in the water?—A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Have you ever had typhoid fever?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was it from drinking Fraser River water?—A. No; I would not say it was from that.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Now, what do you think of the Sunday close time?—A. I think the fishermen should have all Saturday and Sunday—that leaves half a day to fix the net in and generally clean up, and leaves Sunday for a holiday.

Q. Have you seen many dead fish floating down the river?—A. Yes; plenty of them in the middle of August.

Q. Where do you think they would come from?—A. Mostly from the canneries—chucked overboard—they get too many fish on hand and chuck them away; then of course, there are a few fish dropped from the nets.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Did you ever see fish thrown off a cannery wharf?—A. Yes, onetime at Laidlaw's cannery. Last year I saw a Chinaman chucking fish over from a scow.

Q. Were there many?—A. Well, I saw about a hundred—I don't know how many more there were before I came up.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What day of the week was that?—A. On a Friday.

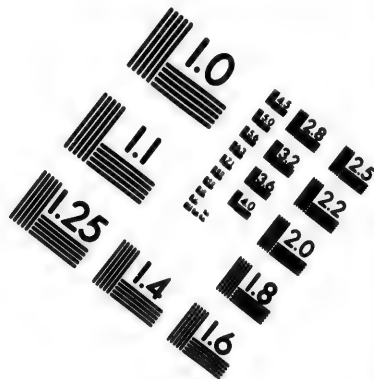
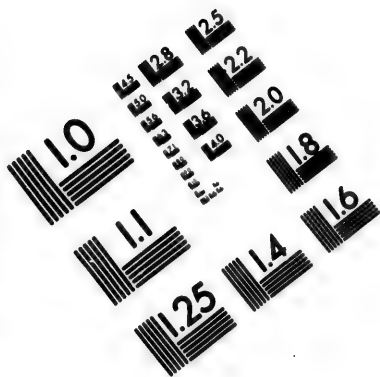
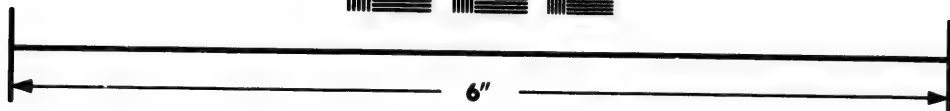
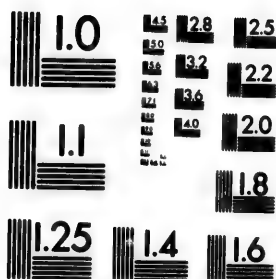


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By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Why did he throw them away?—A. Because they wanted fresh fish.

Q. What depth net do you fish with?—A. I use sixty meshes. It depends on the depth of water—thirty-five meshes at the mouth of the river—some use fifty, but then fish have plenty of show to go up. Most of the fishing is done in slack water, and the fish have a good chance to go up in the strong water.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, have you anything further to tell us?—A. No, I think not, sir.

THOMAS HOOD, a native of Newfoundland, a fisherman, and resident of New Westminster for two years, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, sir, we will be pleased to hear what you have to say?—A. I have been only two years on the river and I have but little experience in this fishery, though I have been a fisherman.

Q. Have you had a license?—A. No, sir.

Q. Why not?—A. I was told all were taken up. I fished two years by contract for a cannery, using their boat and net and license. Last year fish averaged 15 to 20 cents to those with their own licenses, but I could only get six and a half. I have a home here and a family, and I came here to try and better myself as a fisherman; hearing reports of this country, I left Newfoundland to come here. I might show you, gentlemen, these references given me before leaving Newfoundland and which will perhaps vouch somewhat for my character and standing. (Mr. Hood here handed in letters of reference from Messrs. Munro and Bishop, of St. John's, Newfoundland, dated 18th February, 1890, and from G. W. R. Herlei of Bay Roberts, Newfoundland, and which testified very highly to Mr. Hood's ability and standing as a fisherman and master mariner.) After the Chairman's perusal of the above letters aloud,

Mr. WILMOT.—Certainly, Mr. Hood, those references speak very highly of your ability and dexterity both as a fisherman and mariner. It does seem hard that such a good fisherman should not have been able to get a license.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Do you know of any who got licenses whom you would consider were not entitled to it?—A. No, sir, I am but two years here, but still I consider that a number of licenses have been granted that should not have been. It is very hard and unjust that only fifty licenses should go to whitemen who are fishermen out of 580. It is right that the cannerymen who have gone to great expense should get licenses, but they should not have the control of everything. You can see how I stood last season, it is very plain—I could not get a license myself and was forced to take just whatever the cannerymen liked to give. I have my own boat and net and have been raised a fisherman.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Did you catch many spring salmon?—A. No; I only fished for sockeyes.

Q. What number did you take in your boat?—A. 4,300.

Q. For which you got 6½ cents?—A. Yes.

Q. What was about their average weight?—A. Six to eight pounds.

Q. Did you fish the year before also?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were the fish larger then?—A. They were not as large as in '90.

Q. Have you any idea how many cans the seven-pound fish will make?—A. I don't know.

Q. What do you think of this offal that is thrown in the river in such quantities?—A. I don't think it does much harm—the force of the water going down this river takes it out quickly.

Q. Have you seen any in the bays and sloughs?—A. No; I fished at the mouth of the river; I have not seen the shores farther up.

Q. Do you think there is too much fishing at the mouth of the river?—A. Oh, I don't think so, sir. There is plenty of room away over to Point Roberts, and plenty of room for the fish to come in.

Q. But if less boats were fishing there more fish would come up, would they not?—A. Oh, no; I don't think any injury is done.

Q. What do you think of the Sunday close time?—A. Well, I don't fish on Sundays; but upon that point I would not like to lay down the law for others.

Q. But do you not think Sunday should be kept?—A. Yes, I think so. For the two years I have fished on the river I have not fished on Sundays, and I always found I got as many fish on Monday morning as the others who fished on Sunday night. I have done the same on the Grand Banks, and have had a schooner alongside me that fished on Sunday, while we did not; but it is a fact that we invariably got just as many fish in the long run as she did.

Q. Then you consider that there is a special Providence that favours the good fisherman?—A. Well, it certainly looks something like that. (Laughter.)

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. If the men commenced fishing at 6 o'clock on Monday morning, how soon could the canneries commence work?—A. About noon, I think; if there were plenty of fish running.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. You think it is not necessary to have six hours in advance to prepare to fish—that is, they could just as well commence fishing at 12 o'clock Sunday night as at 6 o'clock Sunday evening?—A. Yes, I think so.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. You could not induce them to give you more than 6½ cents for your fish?—A. No, sir.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Do you pursue any other calling than fishing?—A. I work wherever I can get work, and whenever I can get it, with pick and shovel, anything in fact.

Q. Have you anything further to lay before us?—A. No, sir.

WILLIAM DINNEAR, a native of Australia, a fisherman by occupation, and resident of New Westminster since 1882, was duly sworn.

MR. WILMOT.—Well, sir, proceed.—A. Well, I wish to say that I have been fishing on the Fraser River for four years, and have applied for licenses but have never received one.

Q. Why did you not get them?—A. I was notified by letter in 1889 that the whole number was issued, and if more were given out I would be notified.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Were you ever notified?—A. No, sir; I never was. I did not apply last year because I thought I would be notified; but I have never received any information on the subject. This is the letter I got from Mr. Mowat, saying that I would be notified. (Handed in letter, which was returned by the chairman after reading.)

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Have others who came in the country since you did get licenses, and who applied after you or after the date of this letter?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were they residents of the place or were they from other localities?—A. Well, I think one or two in particular were foreigners, but I believe they afterwards took out their papers; I think they were Italians—at least one was.

Q. What was the other?—A. I am not sure what he was.

Q. You think they took out papers—naturalization papers?—A. I think so.

Q. Whom did you fish for?—A. I was fishing on shares. Last season I fished another man's license; he was blind and he asked me to take his license and fish it, and he gave me an order for his license on Mr. Vienna.

Q. What did you give him?—A. I gave him 1 cent a fish up to 2,000, and 1½ cents for all over that number.

Q. Then you sold your fish for whatever you could to the canneries—what did you get?—A. Ten cents.

Q. Then you realized 8½ and 9 cents?—A. I divided fair with my partner after taking the cent and cent and a half out.

Q. Could you have sold at higher prices if you had had a license?—A. I could have, yes.

Q. Then why did you not sell these at the higher price?—A. Well, because I made an agreement with the blind man to give them to a certain cannery and they only gave 10 cents per fish.

Q. Did this blind man pay for the license himself or was the money advanced by the cannery?—A. I think the money was advanced to him.

Q. How many fish did you catch?—A. About 3,000.

Q. What was about their averaged size and weight?—A. I should say six and a half pounds—some perhaps went seven pounds.

Q. What do you think of offal being thrown into the river—do you think it injurious?—A. I think it is injurious to fish at times when the water becomes slimy and dirty.

Q. What do you think of it from a sanitary stand-point?—A. I don't think it healthy—I think it causes a good deal of sickness.

Q. What sort of sickness do you think has prevailed?—A. It causes fever—typhoid, I think. I have known of a few cases, not many. Then we all have to boil the water before drinking it, unless we are out in our boats and cannot help ourselves.

Q. Do you live in a scow or on shore?—A. On shore.

Q. And do you see offal lodging in the bays and sloughs?—A. Very often.

Q. And is the smell disagreeable?—A. Yes, very often.

Q. What do you think of the Sunday close time?—A. I think it very good—it gives a rest to all and lets the fish go up.

Q. What do you say about the limitation of licenses?—A. Well, I think if there is any limit to licenses, fishermen should have the preference and should have one license each.

Q. The Indian also?—A. Yes, I think so.

Q. And would you object to canners having a fair proportion of the licenses?—A. I object to them having a monopoly, but I think they should have a fair proportion.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. In your opinion, what constitutes a fisherman?—A. Oh, a man who can make or mend his net and who fishes.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. A man who bought his net would be a fisherman too, would he not?—A. Well, I mean a man who understands how to fish—I don't think a man who simply buys a net would be a fisherman.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. But supposing he bought his net and fished for years, would he not be a fisherman?—A. I don't think so unless he could mend or make his nets.

Q. How many fishermen are there who can mend their own nets?—A. Oh, perhaps a hundred.

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Q. You don't know that, do you?—A. Well, I would not take an oath to it, but I think it would be about the number.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. But there are many men perhaps who have followed fishing all their lives and yet cannot make a boat or mend a net—now, don't you consider them as fishermen?—A. I think all these things should be taken into account.

Q. How many years is it since you came here?—A. I came here in 1882.

Q. Were you a fisherman in Australia?—A. No, sir.

Q. But you are now?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Then when you first came here you would not have been entitled to a license as a fisherman?—A. No.

Q. Then you see there was a time when you were not a fisherman, though, perhaps, fishing on the river, however, I see what you mean—you mean by a fisherman not only a man who fishes, but also thoroughly understands all the practical details of the business?—A. Yes, sir, that is it.

Q. Well, now, have you anything further to tell us?—A. No, sir.

WILLIAM EDWARD DEVINE, a native of England, a fisherman, and resident of the Pacific coast between the Columbia, Sacramento and Fraser Rivers, since 1862, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. We shall be pleased to hear what you have to say on the question of the fisheries, Mr. Devine?—A. Well, I merely came here to assist my brother-fishermen, as I think we have a good chance now to speak before you gentlemen. I think it has been a piece of injustice from the first go off, that poor men who make their living on the river cannot get licenses, and I know old fishermen who are here now, have applied several times, but could not get any license.

Q. Have you had a license?—A. For the last three years I have had, sir. You see, sometimes we go north—we go up to Skeena and Rivers Inlet and the Naas, and we happen up country and take chances. We say, if the Fraser is bad, we will go to the Skeena or Naas, and we think they will be good, and when we come back again our license here is gone—we would be off the list and no license would be granted, and other men come in and get licenses. Of course, the more goes in the better for the country; but those men who pass their time in physical labour and depend entirely upon fishing for their living, should get a license.

Q. When did you fish on the Skeena last?—A. I never fished on the Skeena. I said some of us do. I went to Rivers Inlet, but lately have stuck to here so as to save my license.

Q. You have fished on the Columbia and Sacramento?—A. Yes; I have fished in all of them; but for the last ten or twelve years I have remained here.

Q. What number of fish do you take?—A. The year before last I took 10,000.

Q. You must be a good fisherman?—A. Well, no. I was right at the door or mouth of the river, and I fished away out beyond the lighthouse, and these fish are better than those up river.

Q. How long do you think they are coming from the mouth of the river to, say, up here?—A. Well, I cannot say; but on the Sacramento we have marked the chinook and known them to be five weeks making thirty miles. We put our initials on the skin to see how fast they would travel.

Q. Was that in tidal water?—A. Yes; all tidal water.

Q. How wide was the river where this was done?—A. Well, about six or seven miles. When the fish are coming into the river you can stand in a boat and see them waiting around before they go up. I don't think that fish go suddenly out of salt water into fresh. Of course they come in to spawn. If I have two nets, I always put in the

two. On a cold day never put in your net in shallow water, but on a warm day go on the sand. The deeper the water the warmer it is. In warm weather you will always see fish play well on the sands, and I have had them alongside my boat for an hour at a time.

Q. You say you have caught 10,000 in one season?—A. Yes; but others got more than me. I was sick just from drinking the water of the Fraser River. Some men turn in 1,000 fish in one night.

Q. To whom do you sell?—A. The Gurry Point cannery.

Q. What did you get for your fish?—A. Ten cents each; if any more was given, we would get more.

Q. Should fishermen who get licenses be British subjects?—A. Yes; to a limited extent.

Q. What do you mean by that?—A. Well, I would give the licenses to men who are really fishermen and make their living by fishing.

Q. Well, suppose all were really fishermen?—A. Oh, well, you can overfish a river, but the Fraser is not, and I think the hatchery has been of great benefit. Common sense tells any one that, when for the last three years we have had great runs.

Q. Then you are satisfied that overfishing will bring about depletion?—A. Yes, certainly. Sawdust and other matters will also hurt the fish. I was in Oregon when they made the first laws for fishing, and I know they thought all such matters were very hurtful.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. What about the Indians?—A. Well, they are certainly fishermen and should get licenses the same as any one else.

Q. Suppose 200 Indians applied, would you give them all licenses?—A. Well, no, sir.

Q. Well, then, how many should be given?—A. About one-third to the Indians and the rest to the whites.

Q. Why restrict them to one-third?—A. Because we have made the country what it is—we taught the Indians how to fish—that is, to fish with any degree of success for commercial purposes—they were fishing with spears and grip-nets, and all sorts of odd-fashioned arrangements when first I came to the country, and all their knowledge of first-class work they have gained from us.

Q. How many licenses then would you give the cannery?—A. I am not in a position to say, but I would allow a fair number.

Q. Would you say twenty or twenty-five?—A. Oh, gentlemen, I would say, use your own judgment.

Q. But we want to hear what you think in the matter?—A. Well, in the first place I would give actual fishermen the preference—then the older fishermen should have the preference—we built the country up and taught the others how to catch fish; they should have the preference among the fishermen.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Would it make the boats too numerous to give each of the fishermen a license?—A. I think, sir, that it would not be overdoing the thing if each fisherman who is a fisherman should get a license, and then give to the freezers and cannery, for certainly they are a benefit to the country and we would not be getting what we are if they were not here. No bartering of licenses should be allowed.

Q. In regard to the offal, what do you know of its effects?—A. I am positive it is injurious in a sanitary way. We have to drink that water, and in the dark when we take up a dip, we dip up guts of fish, and that is a nice drink I can tell you. (Laughter.) I have taken many a swallow of it to my sorrow. It is all very well for people to say the current takes the offal all out to sea, but when you come to take in your nets and find fish-guts and muck of all kinds, and then when you come to wash your net I can tell you it is not quite eau de cologne. (Laughter.)

Q. Then you know that the entrails, &c., do get into your net?—A. I am positive, because every fisherman knows that we are always picking out muck of all sorts, then we have to boil our water before we can use it.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Where do you live?—A. Down at Steveston, when fishing.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. But do you think that what is dangerous to man is dangerous to fish?—A. Well, we have an example right over in Vancouver. There used to be a great number of herring there, but since an oil refinery was established there and they were allowed to run their offal into the water the herring have disappeared—therefore, I think it hurts the herring. It is believed that the offal must do harm. In regard to trout, I think it is very injurious to salmon, because the trout follows the salmon and often feeds upon their eggs and then there is no better bite for a trout than a salmon head. The Indians in many places get a little pole and put on a hook, and they will beat any London fisherman that ever threw a fly.

Q. Do you think salmon themselves eat their own eggs?—A. I am almost positive they do not, and I think that is not a correct theory.

Q. Then you think the depositing of offal is both injurious to man and to the fish?

—A. I am positive it is injurious to the human family, and am almost sure it is to fish, and if I was betting I would bet ten to one it was, though of course it would increase the expenses of the cannerymen to have to look after it, and I would not like to add to them—they have enough to contend with already, but I think the Government should take up the matter and prevent it from going into the river, for no one wants to drink salmon guts, or if they do I am not one of them.

Q. You say you got 10,000 fish—if you had not been at the “door” and had been kept in the “room” as it were, more fish would have come in, would they not?—A. Well, I don't know. The fishermen would be too close and it would be a cause of much contention and trouble. It is bad enough now—sometimes you might as well have your net in your bed-room. (Laughter.)

Q. Then would you think it advisable, in the interest of the fishermen, that certain restrictions should be placed on fishing at the mouth of the river?—A. Oh, no; I think it does not stop fish from coming in. We are distributed away off—some three miles.

Q. What do you think of the close season?—A. I think the way things have been it is a good plan—it gives the cannerymen a chance, also the fishermen and the fish.

Q. If the fishing commenced at 12 o'clock Sunday night, would you not have enough fish for Monday?—A. Well, but who is to tell when the fishermen will put out under that arrangement, but now when all put out when the flag drops at 6 o'clock, it is quite fair.

Q. What do you think of the annual close season?—A. I think we should fish all the year round. Each kind of fish has a certain time of coming in and fish are always going up. There is one thing I would wish to speak about—the reason we want the licenses is this. Now there are canneries on this river the owners of which say “we can do without you,” “we don't want independent fishermen,” and if the canners are allowed to have all the licenses they want it will ruin us and we will have to pack up and go to Alaska or elsewhere, and if the canners can get Japanese or Chinamen to fish for them, why it takes the bread right out of our mouths.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Chinamen don't fish but Japs do—are there many of them employed?—A. Yes; English employs nothing else, I think, now.

Q. What are they paid, do you know?—A. About four cents a fish.

Q. Do they work in the cannery as well?—A. No, sir, they only fish. They put four men in a boat and pay them 4 cents a fish; it is starvation wages even for them, but they will stick to it like glue. The little Japs are most persevering fellows.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Are there many fishermen go out to fish at the mouth of the river?—A. Yes; the majority of us white men go out, though many contend that as many fish are caught up the river as down at the mouth.

Q. How many meshes deep is your net?—A. Sometimes thirty to forty meshes for sockeyes, for spring and cohoes we use deeper.

Q. The fish swim deeper?—A. Yes; they swim deeper.

Q. Do you think you keep many fish out by putting your nets at the mouth of the river, do you frighten them off?—A. No, sir; the fish have every opportunity to get up.

Q. Do you think that fish finding net after net in their way would go away?—A. Well, no; anyway that is not what they find at the mouth of the Fraser, there is plenty of room for them to pass up. Some years ago a boat coming from China struck a lot of fish 300 miles away which it was supposed had been stopped going into the Columbia River, but there the nets are ever so much thicker, you could walk from cork-line to cork-line.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. This you say is at the mouth of the Columbia?—A. Yes, sir; others here could tell you the same and it is quite likely they would stop the fish to a very great extent. It is often supposed that the fish after trying vainly to get in, get disgusted and go away, and are thus deflected from their proper river.

Q. Yes; it must have a bad effect in that way. Well, have you anything further to say?—A. No, sir; I don't think I have anything further.

THOMAS SHEAVES, a native of Newfoundland, a fisherman, and resident of New Westminster for five years, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, sir, have you any statement to present to us?—A. I have been fishing for three years on this river; about eight months in each year.

Q. Had you a license?—A. No, sir.

Q. Why?—A. Well, older fishermen were given the first chance.

Q. And you fished for other people?—A. Yes.

Q. On shares?—A. Yes; in the spring of the year.

Q. What other way did you fish?—A. Well, I bought my own net and fished on shares for the license.

Q. What was the license fee?—A. \$5.

Q. You have been fishing for the canneries?—A. Yes, last year. I made an agreement, but I had my own boat.

Q. The person you fished with had got a boat from the cannerymen?—A. No; he got a license direct from the office.

Q. You want to get a license yourself?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Well, would you not want some one to help you?—Yes, sir.

Q. Should there be a limitation on the number of licenses issued on the river?—A. No.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. If every fisherman had a license, would it not be necessary for them to hire a man to help them?—A. Yes; but not necessary that that help should be a fisherman—any one can pull a boat.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. What about the licenses for the canneries?—A. I think they should be limited.

Q. Could you say what number would be necessary for an ordinary cannery?—A. I could not say.

Q. Well, what do you think about the disposal of this offal in the river, do you think it injurious?—A. Well, I have been drinking water here for eight years and have felt no injury. I do not think it injurious either to fish or man.

Q. Does it get in your net?—A. A very little.

Q. Where do you fish?—A. Near the mouth of the river.

Q. How about the Sunday close time—do you think that correct?—A. It suits me all right, and I think it correct as at present.

Q. Your principal complaint is, then, that you cannot get a license, though you applied for one?—A. Yes, sir; I think I should get one. I have nothing further to say.

JOHN STEVENS, a native of Greece, though now a British subject, a fisherman, and resident of New Westminster since 1882, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, sir, what is your special complaint?—A. I have had a license for six years past, but I want to see justice for the fishermen. The last three years the canneries have had control and fishermen have had no rights at all.

Q. How do you make that out?—A. Because few fishermen are enabled to dispose of fish, because the canners get all they want with their own licenses, and I think the canners should get a less number of licenses and the fishermen more.

Q. Well, but how does that affect you if you have a license?—A. Well, my friends have applied for licenses and could not get any, and I think they should be able to get them. The markets, freezers and salters have too many licenses and don't use them themselves. If I get a license I use my own boat and license, but these people are different, they let out their license and buy fish at just what figures they like. Mr. Port gave 3 cents a fish and then sold them to Mr. Ewen—he didn't freeze any fish at all.

Q. Have you any ideas as to the effects of the offal?—A. I think it has a bad effect upon the health of people. I don't think there is a man upon the river who drinks water that does not think it injurious.

Q. Do you think it is injurious to the passage of fish?—A. Well, I think in salt water it stops them from coming in, for if you throw a dead herring where herring are the herring will go away.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. What is the difference between fish that are dead or have died in great numbers and the offal that is thrown in, both are equally bad, are they not?—A. Well, the only thing I know is that the water is bad—my wife had typhoid fever last year.

Q. Had you a doctor attending here?—A. Yes; I had afterwards a doctor from Vancouver—you see at first there was no doctor near and it was four or five days before I got one from Vancouver.

Q. Did he give any opinion as to the cause of the fever?—A. Yes; he said drinking the water was the cause of it.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Where do you live?—A. I live on a scow.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Do many fishermen live on scows?—A. Yes; most of them live on scows on the river. There are about fifteen or twenty scows near Ladner's Landing—here there are twelve or fifteen.

Q. Do you not think that way of living is injurious to health?—A. I don't think so.

MR. ARMSTRONG.—Well, I wonder you are not all dead—living in that way and drinking that water!

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What do you think of the close season—the Sunday close time when fishing is prohibited?—A. I think it all right. I would rather commence on Monday morning than on Sunday night.

Q. But you see the canners say they want fish for Monday morning?—A. Yes; of course, that is the reason.

Q. Do you ever get offal in your net?—A. Yes; I have got heads and guts and tails in my net when fishing at Canoe Pass, but not when fishing in the main river. I have got sixty or a hundred heads in one net many times.

Q. Have you seen any dead fish floating down the river?—A. Well, it is very seldom—you see them sometimes.

Q. Have you seen sockeye red going out of the river?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. In what season was that?—A. In September.

Q. Have they done spawning then?—A. I have caught them with spawn in their bodies at that time.

Q. Did they look as if they were hurt?—A. No; just red.

Q. What about the white salmon, have you caught them?—A. I have caught quite a lot in the month of August.

Q. What is done with them?—A. Most fishermen salt them down or sell them to the Indians—we cannot do much of anything with them.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Are they not a better fish than the sockeye?—A. Yes; they are, but we can get no market to speak of for them.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Are any being caught now?—A. No, not now; they are not caught in the spring.

Q. When do you catch them?—A. Generally in August.

Q. Yes; well, I think, sir, we have gone over most of the questions on our list—have you anything further to say to us?—A. No, sir, nothing further.

The Commission adjourned at 10.30 p.m., to meet on Monday, 22nd February, 1892, at 10 a.m.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., 22nd February, 1892.

Third Day's Session.

The Commission assembled in the Court-house at 10 a.m.

Present:—Mr. S. Wilmot, presiding; Mr. Sheriff Armstrong, (Mr. Higgins had left for Victoria the day previous) and Mr. C. F. Winter, secretary.

The Chairman called the Commission to order, and invited any person present desirous of giving evidence to come forward; whereupon

DAVID MELVILLE, a native of Scotland, a fisherman and resident of New Westminster for three years, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Have you anything to lay before the Commission or would you prefer that we should ask you questions?—A. Well, gentlemen, what I wanted to say was that I have been three or four years in the country and have tried three or four times to get a license but have never got one.

Q. What was the reason given you?—A. I was told I could not get one, the licenses were all given out, and that I was a new-comer.

Q. Do you know of any persons who have got licenses since you came to the country?—A. Yes, I know of parties who got licenses since I was refused and who came in at the same time I did.

Q. What are the names?—A. George Harkness is one—(after a pause) I know of no others.

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Q. He came into the country after you, did he?—A. No, at the same time, but he did not apply for a license until after I was refused.

Q. What year was that?—A. In '90. I applied in '89 and in '90, and in '91, and he got a license after I made application.

Q. Well, sir, what further have you to say?—A. There are lots of men about the canneries who have licenses but don't fish them—they work in the canneries.

Q. Who fishes under their licenses?—A. They hire them out and are paid 12 cents, and they pay 8 cents to the persons hiring them—that is for the fish they catch.

Q. Are you satisfied that a man who has a license and fishes it himself would get 20 cents for his fish?—A. Yes, he would.

Q. Or would two men fishing on shares—would they get 20 cents?—A. Yes, last year I got 20 cents. We got 20 in some places, at some places 15, and some places 12½—we got 20 cents from Ewen & Co., and 12½ from the syndicate, but I had to buy my license.

Q. What do you give for a license?—A. \$20.

Q. Then you were actually as well off as if you had a license of your own?—A. Yes, last year, but not the year before.

Q. Do you think it beneficial to fishermen and the canneries that licenses should be bartered and sold?—A. No, I think that the men who get the licenses should do the actual fishing, and be actual fishermen.

Q. Have you any other special complaint?—A. Yes, about the freezers, who get licenses but don't use them.

Q. What do they do with them?—A. They sell them to the canneries. Mr. Port had ten and he sold them to the canneries—he didn't fish them himself—he paid 8 cents while he was getting 12 cents for the fish.

Q. Did Mr. Port do any freezing last year?—A. Port is no freezer.

Q. What is his business, then?—A. He ships some fish fresh in the spring, and sells to the canners in the summer.

Q. Does this matter you refer to about not freezing fish refer to last year?—A. He froze fish the year before last, but he threw them away.

Q. Why did he do that?—A. They were not properly frozen.

Q. How many were thrown away?—A. Some 500 or 600.

Q. Were they all, too, fish that had been caught that season?—A. Yes, they were sockeye salmon.

Q. With your knowledge of the freezing business, how many boats with ordinary fishermen do you think it would take to supply that freezer?—A. The way they use them two boats would be too many, one boat would be enough.

Q. To supply a freezer of the magnitude of Mr. Port's?—A. Well, a boat will catch say 500 salmon.

Q. But the freezer's capacity might be 5,000?—A. Yes, but he has no freezer at all.

Q. Have you any other special remarks to make?—A. Well, there are some Japanese who have got licenses.

Q. In what year?—A. In '89, I think.

Q. Any since?—A. No, not to my knowledge.

Q. Was this after you applied for license?—A. No, they got them the same year.

Q. Do you know these Japanese—had they worked in a cannery for a long time?—

A. I don't know.

Q. Then it is a custom is it, which prevails considerably that people get licenses from the Government officer, but do not use them and sell them to others for profit?—

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And some are not fishermen at all?—A. Not at all.

Q. Now, as regards the offal, what do you think of its effects from going into the river?—A. I think it has a bad effect on other rivers.

Q. Do you know that the offal all goes into the river?—A. Yes, it all goes into the river.

Q. What effect do you think that has as regards fish?—A. I think it must have a bad effect on the fish.

Q. And what effect has it on the human family?—A. It must be as bad for man as for the fish.

Q. Do you know of any cases of sickness resulting from drinking the river water?—

A. Yes, I do know of some.

Q. What disease did the parties have, do you know?—A. Yes; typhoid fever.

Q. The persons having this fever—were they immediate residents?—A. Yes, they were fishing at the mouth of the river.

Q. Were there more than one case?—A. I know of one—he is a partner of mine.

Q. Did he recover?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you know of any others?—A. No, I have heard of others, but I don't know.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. How do you know that drinking the water was the cause?—A. Well, it got the blame of it anyway.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Is there an impression amongst the fishermen that the water causes sickness?—A. Yes, that is the impression.

Q. Do you know of this offal being used in any way upon the soil—as manure or guano?—A. It is used for oil down the river.

Q. How far down the river?—A. About nine miles down.

Q. How do they get the offal?—A. It is taken there in scows.

Q. Is it an expensive method, do you think?—A. No; I think not. The scow is shoved under the cannery, the offal falls in and then the steamer takes it away.

Q. Is this done largely or generally, do you know?—A. Well, an addition to the factory was made last year, and they are going to build another.

Q. Then the business is improving?—A. Yes.

Q. Would that factory consume all the offal?—A. It would take but two canneries to supply the present factory now.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Two to supply it all the time?—A. Well, I don't know that it would—two would supply it in the sockeye run.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. How many scows were there employed in taking the offal from the canneries to the factory?—A. Six scows.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. How many barrels of oil were made last summer, can you tell us?—A. No; I don't know that.

Q. Do you know what disposition they made of the offal from the oil factory?—A. No; I don't know. I never saw them throw it in the river.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Do you ever use it on the land?—A. No.

Q. How many men are there engaged in this oil factory?—A. Three.

Q. And how many men are there engaged on the scows?—A. There are two men on the steam-boat; they will manage the scows too.

Q. Are these scows and steam-boats kept occupied all day doing this work?—A. No; just a short time each day.

Q. What distance was the farthest away cannery from the oil factory?—A. About one and a half to two miles.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Who empties the scows at the factory?—A. The factory men do that.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. What class of men are these that are engaged on the scoops?—A. Well, it is a Frenchman that has the factory down there, and he employs French labour.

Q. Have you any idea as to their wages?—A. No; but I think they get about the same as what fishermen make.

Q. What do the fishermen make?—A. Boatmen get \$2 a day; netters get \$2.25.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Are there many white men employed in fishing?—A. Oh, about 100 or 200 altogether.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Then the business you seek is to get a license and then hire a man to help you, is that it?—A. Yes.

Q. Do the canneries employ many white men?—A. No; they get Siwashe and Kootchie; inside it is squaws and Chinamen; only about five or six would be white men out of about 100 altogether. The most I have seen in a cannery is 120 or 130; I was one year in a cannery.

Q. How many white men do you say out of this number?—A. Six; all the rest are Chinamen and Kootchie.

Q. Have you any idea of the daily pay of a squaw or "Kootchie," as you call them out there?—A. About \$1 a day.

Q. And what do the Chinamen get?—A. Well, some are hired by contract; you see a boss Chinamen takes a contract to put the fish up in the cans, and he employs others; they get about 48 cents a case, or about 1 cent a can.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. What labour does this include?—A. Everything; they make the cans, clean the fish, put them in the tins, put on the labels, and in fact do nearly all the inside work connected with the fish.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Do the Chinamen do the more important work with the retorts?—A. No; a white man does that.

Q. The boss Chinaman does not furnish the labels, does he?—A. No.

Q. Nor he does not furnish the boxes?—A. No; but he puts them into the boxes ready to go away.

Q. What do you consider the average weight of the sockeye running in the river?—A. From six to eight pounds; seven would, I think, be a good average.

Q. Have you seen the process of cutting up the fish in the canneries?—A. Yes.

Q. Are the heads and tails cut off?—A. Yes.

Q. How many cans would a seven pound fish make?—A. About five.

Q. Then the rest would be offal?—A. Yes.

Q. During the season of a big run of fish will they make more cans to the fish or less?—A. They will make less; they then take more off the head and tail.

Q. When fish are scarcer they will make more cans and less offal then?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. I think you said the canneries ought to have a certain number of licenses each?—A. Yes.

Q. A small number?—A. Yes; about four or five each.

Q. You think every *bonâ fide* fisherman who applies should get a license?—A. Yes, if he does not hire it out—he could fish himself.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Would you give licenses to all?—A. Yes; all British subjects and residents of the country.

Q. Have you any knowledge of the effects of saw-dust in a river?—A. No; I don't see much of it—I don't know much about that.

Q. There are quite a number of extensive mills near here, are there not?—A. Yes, but they have burners; they don't throw their saw-dust into the river.

Q. But are there any small rivers running into the Fraser on which saw-mills are?—A. I don't know.

Q. Then altogether you think the canners should get four or five licenses and every British subject and fisherman should get one?—Yes.

Q. What do you think about the close season for the preservation of fish?—A. I think fishing could be done up to Saturday at noon, but Sunday should be kept as a day of rest for the fishermen; we could start at 12 o'clock midnight.

Q. What about an annual close season—were you a fisherman in Scotland?—A. I was.

Q. Did you fish there on Sunday?—A. No; not at all.

Q. There are no canning establishments there though?—A. No.

Q. Well, what do you think of an annual close season?—A. I think the fish are all up by the time fishing is done here.

Q. Do you think the fish are all up in October?—A. Yes.

Q. What is it they are fishing for then?—A. For cohoes, but we don't count them.

Q. Have you seen many dead salmon floating down the river?—A. Not many—I have seen some.

Q. What kind were they?—A. I have never seen spring salmon—I have seen sockeyes but not in very great numbers.

Q. Have you ever seen any going down from the beds?—A. Oh, I have seen one or two, but not in great numbers.

Q. Have you seen any going down with spawn in them?—A. I have seen them in August with spawn.

Q. Do you think they all die after spawning?—A. No; I have caught them at the mouth of the river after they have spawned.

Q. What state were they in then?—A. Lean, weak, emaciated fish.

Q. It is the same elsewhere. Take places in Scotland and you will see the same thing after the spawning season?—A. Yes; lots die on the spawning beds in England. I have seen hundreds going down in the spring of the year afterwards.

Q. I am asking these questions because the opinion prevails in this province that fish all die, and my object is to endeavour to find out if this is correct, because I consider it quite contrary to nature. Do you know anything about young fish, parrs and smolts?—A. I never heard of them here—I have in the old country.

Q. What is a parr?—A. A young salmon.

Q. And a smolt and grilse?—A. Still larger salmon.

Q. Have you ever seen any parrs, smolts, or grilse coming down this river?—A. Well, the sockeye is the same as the grilse in the old country.

Q. What as—in size and weight?—A. Yes; in everything.

Q. Then grilse in Scotland weigh from six to seven pounds?—A. Yes; you get them up to ten pounds. They are young salmon and the first may be coming up to spawn—the next year they are salmon.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Then the sockeye you think is the same species of salmon?—A. Yes; they look the same salmon. I don't think there is any difference between spring and sockeye salmon, except one is larger than the other.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. And you think the sockeye the grilse or young of the larger salmon?—A. Well, it looks like it.

Q. Have you ever heard in Scotland that the grilse are finer fish than the full-grown salmon of the same species?—A. I have not heard that—the meat is the same.

Q. If a three pound grilse what would it be?—A. Well, it would not have reached maturity.

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Q. How do you distinguish parrs from smolts?—A. By the spots on the body.
Q. And when bars cross the body transversely, what do you call it then?—A. It is salmon then, or rather a parr.

Q. Have you ever seen these grilse here?—A. No, sir.

Q. Are smolts found in Scotland at the mouths of rivers?—A. Yes; they work down river and stay in the estuary awhile and then go to sea.

Q. Do you think this would apply to this country if it was looked into?—A. Yes; it might.

Q. And if small-meshed seines were used at the mouths of rivers these fish would be caught and it would be very destructive, would it not?—A. Yes, of course, if too many fish were killed.

Q. Then you have a sort of idea that the sockeye might be as the grilse is towards the larger salmon?—A. Well, it looks like that—it resembles the salmon anyway.

Q. Can you discern the male from the female in catching sockeye, before cleaning them?—A. Yes; you can tell by the heads.

Q. The male's is more elongated?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever seen any some distance up river when far advanced in spawning?
A. No; but they have a big hook on the nose which they have not when they come in first.

Q. And this hook; on which fish is it?—A. On the male.

Q. Is the hook on when he is in?—A. No.

Q. Is there any remarkable difference takes place in the female from the time she comes in until she has spawned?—A. No; there is no change.

Q. In regard to the spring salmon, do the same appearances show on them?—A. In the fall of the year the male has a large hook on his jaw.

Q. Is it the same in Scotland?—A. Yes; it is the same all over.

Q. There is an identity between the salmon in both Scotland and the Fraser?—A. Yes.

Q. There is another fish here, the steel-head, what are they?—A. Well, we have some in Scotland—they are called bull trout—they are in the Tay and Tweed.

Q. What distinguishing marks are there between the trout and the salmon in Scotland?—A. Well, they have straight tail, straight up and down—the salmon is forked in the tail—the head is larger here in the steel-head.

Q. Do bull trout in Scotland grow as large as salmon, and do steel-heads grow as large as salmon here?—A. About the same.

Q. Then there is a great identity between the steel-head and the bull trout of Scotland?—A. Yes.

Q. Well, I must say sir, with very much pleasure, that your views as regards fish and fish-life are identical with those of the most learned persons everywhere on the subject. Now, with regard to the next run of fish after the sockeyes, you have what are called humpbacks; what do you think of them?—A. Well, I don't know, I never saw them before.

Q. Why are they called "humpbacks"?—A. Because there is a hump on the male's back.

Q. Is this hump seen on him at sea, as well as in the rivers?—A. Yes; I have caught them so.

Q. Well, you must remember that Atlantic and Scottish salmon come in without a hook on their snouts and that they afterwards get them—do you not think it possible that the humpback at sea may not have the hump on him, but when in the river it grows upon him and distinguishes the male from the female?—A. Well, it might, but I cannot say about that.

Q. What about the cohoes—they come later again, don't they?—A. Yes, sir; they are spotted something similar to spring salmon, and are a good eating fish when red meat and fit for canning.

Q. Is it canned?—A. No; it is not needed because they get plenty of sockeyes—but if the sockeyes are scarce they would can them.

Q. If cohoes or humpbacks are caught in the nets for catching sockeyes, what is done with them?—A. The cohoes are canned, but the humpbacks are given away to the Siwash.

Q. Then the spring salmon which are first caught are all alike in colour of meat, are they?—A. Well, no; not altogether—some are white but not many.

Q. Are there more white than red in the after part of the season?—A. Yes.

Q. Are these white and red salmon distinguished by any marks that you can tell them by when taking them from the net?—A. No; you must cut them open before you know.

Q. Are numbers of white salmon thrown away?—A. Yes; some are thrown away, some are salted.

Q. Are they as good fish to eat as the red?—A. I don't think so.

Q. Where do you fish—at the mouth of the river or the upper part?—A. In the sockeye season I go down to the mouth of the river.

Q. About Gurry Bush?—A. Yes; and away outside.

Q. How far outside?—A. Sometimes out to the lighthouse.

Q. About four miles out?—A. Yes.

Q. How wide is it across the river from Gurry Bush?—A. About three-quarters of a mile.

Q. At what tide?—A. At low water.

Q. Does it get wider farther out?—A. Yes; but about a quarter of a mile out the water gets narrower.

Q. It is better fishing from Gurry Bush out?—A. Oh well, all about there is about the same.

Q. Are the fish congregated in the pass beyond Gurry Bush?—A. Yes; at low water.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. You say you go out four miles?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. What is the object in going out there?—A. Well, because the fish are easier caught there.

Q. Would it not be as beneficial if the fish were allowed to come up?—A. Well, it would be, but you have to go out to get clear of the other fishermen.

Q. What mesh do you use from Gurry Bush out?—A. Forty and thirty meshes deep.

Q. And in the river farther up?—A. Fifty and sixty meshes—the water is deeper inside.

Q. With a thirty mesh net when being swept to get fish, will the lead lines nearly touch bottom?—A. Yes; they very nearly touch the bottom.

Q. Then when fish are coming along, with 150 fathoms of net in length and thirty meshes deep, it would sweep all along both top and bottom?—A. Yes; but there is lots of room for the fish to get in for all that.

Q. But would not there be lots of other boats and would not the nets almost form a fence across?—A. Yes; virtually they would.

Q. In your experience and with your knowledge of netting, do you find the fish strike the upper or the lower parts of the net?—A. Oh, they strike it everywhere. The most are caught about the centre.

Q. Then if a net was twenty meshes instead of thirty, more fish would escape, would they not?—A. Yes; for there would be no net to hold them—certainly more would escape, but when a fisherman is fishing he wants to catch fish.

MR. ARMSTRONG here showed witness a map of the mouth of the river and channel and asked him if the channel was filled up with nets?—A. No.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. How many boats have you seen at one time fishing out beyond Gurry Bush towards the lighthouse?—A. Oh, about 300.

Q. The fishermen go there in preference because the fish are easier taken is that it?—A. Well, no; we go there to get clear of one another.

Q. But is it not because you would catch more fish there than you would up the river?—A. I never fished up the river.

Q. What number of fish is your average catch a day?—A. About 900 in a big run. The average would be about 400 or 500, speaking generally.

Q. What would be your gross catch in a season?—A. I have caught 12,000.

Q. What do you get each for them?—A. Six cents; the owner of the boat gets four—ten cents in all for each salmon.

Q. What was the marketable value of the fish?—A. Ten cents. Cannery have paid twenty—they paid twenty last year.

Q. Do you think the great number of nets at the mouth of the river would have the tendency to prevent fish from making their regular migration up river?—A. If you catch them there they cannot go on up the river, that is certain.

Q. Do you think a lot of boats and nets at the mouth of a river would turn fish away?—A. No, sir; nothing would prevent the salmon from going up when he comes for that purpose, except the catching of them.

Q. Do you ever get offal in your net down there?—A. Yes; heads and tails—sometimes lots of them.

Q. What condition would they be in—would they have a nice flavour? (Laughter.)—A. (Laughing) Yes; some of them were so.

Q. Do you get offal in considerable quantities?—A. Sometimes lots, and sometimes we don't get any.

Q. Is offal injurious to a net for taking fish?—A. I don't know.

Q. In Scottish rivers is not slime and refuse matter injurious?—A. Slime is, but no offal goes into the rivers there.

Q. Is not there slime here in the rivers?—A. Yes.

Q. Then slime and offal combined should be bad for the nets, should it not?—A. Yes; but the water is colder here.

Q. Do you paint your nets or colour them in any way?—A. We bark them here; they are mostly tarred in Scotland.

Q. And what twine do you use?—A. Oh, 8-40, about the same as in Scotland.

Q. Then the salmon net is the same as in Scotland as far as the twine is concerned?—A. Yes.

Q. And what mesh do you use?—A. Six inch mesh.

Q. And what in Scotland?—A. Three and a half for seine and six for drift net—extension measure.

Q. You state that you have caught salmon that have been spawned out?—A. Yes; I caught them down the river.

Q. Are you sure they were spawned before you caught them?—A. Yes.

Q. When?—In August, in the latter part.

Q. You are quite sure they had spawned?—A. Yes; quite sure.

That will do. I may state to you, sir, that though your views may differ with those of many fishermen here, still they agree with the views of the best authorities generally as to the habits, &c., of salmon.

Mr. Peter Burrill here rose in the audience, and addressing the Chair, accused Mr. Wilnot with putting questions to witnesses in such a way as to elicit certain answers, and protested against the continuance of such a practice. He was called to order by the Chairman, who also directed the secretary to erase from his note-book the remarks made by Mr. Burrill as they were offensive.

The Commission adjourned at 11.50 a.m., to meet in the Court-house, New Westminster, at 1 p.m.

Afternoon Session.

22nd February, 1892.

The Commission assembled at the Court-house, New Westminster, at 2 p.m. and proceeded to business.

Present:—Mr. S. Wilmot, in the chair; Mr. Sheriff Armstrong, Mr. C. F. Winter, secretary.

Dr. H. M. COOPER, of New Westminster, a medical practitioner and resident of New Westminster for nine years, stated his desire to give evidence, and was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, sir, we are prepared to hear your statement?—A. I wish to give some evidence regarding the effects of this offal in the river. I have been requested by parties interested to come and give evidence in this regard. The offal, I think, does not, when thrown into running water or cold water, have any effect upon the health of the community along the river or watercourses, and it is by no means the cause of the serious fevers which are along there, for they come from another source altogether and not from decaying animal matter, but from the upper surface of the soil and subsoil of the country—vegetable decomposition. Even the excreta from towns where there are diseases is purified almost as soon as it reaches the river, that is a flowing river. That is according to all the latest investigators on the subject. The German investigation on the subject found that what they called the pathogenic (?), germs that is the origins of disease, when put into river water soon lost their power and disappeared, and they also investigated in regard to the typhoid bacillus and the *cojus vibrio* (?)—animal matter—and found that although they were capable of development in sterile water, they could be kept in that for some time, but disappeared rapidly on being put into river water.

Q. This is from other authorities, not your own, doctor?—A. Yes, from Cross—"German Commission for Investigation," and is this: "It thus appears that the bacteria of water alone, that is what belongs to all water, have certain power of their own, and that they will destroy outside organisms in running water in a given time."

Q. That is, that water has a tendency to cleanse itself?—Yes; of anything that may be brought into it—that is the function of running water. I know this for a fact from my own experience. Now take the Susquehanna River—we found in Plymouth and Kingston and places where the water was kept in reservoirs, the people had fever, while in towns where the people took the water from the running river they had no fever.

Q. But would the pollution resulting from excreta be more injurious than that from offal?—A. Oh, yes; for instance, take meat—it may be eaten in a partially decaying state and yet not produce disease. Taking animal matter in itself does not produce disease. People eat maggots in cheese, and then many English people leave their game until it is almost bitter before it is eaten.

Q. But would you, as a medical man, recommend that?—A. No.

Q. Would you advise it?—A. No; but it is a matter of taste.

Q. Is not meat more healthy when sound than when decomposed?—A. Yes, and fish is better.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Meat decomposed—is it not poisonous?—A. No; there may be poisons in the meat, but the mere fact of decomposition does not make it poisonous.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. But does not its decomposing state draw to it such atmospheric parts as would create poisonous matter?—A. Perhaps in the first stages of decomposition. There are persons whom the finest lamb will poison almost dead.

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Q. Small things are compared with large, *vice versa* large with small. A body of water with decomposing matter put in—would it be as healthy for man or beast?—A. If a running stream it would not be affected. If in cold running water it would not be affected.

Q. But any animal inhaling that water, or fish, inhales more or less putrid or decomposing matter, vegetable or animal—now would it not be affected?—A. I do not think that animals are affected in that way with it, because you will find them around among the worst decomposition that we can have; people who work among it have no more diseases than other people—butchers are as a rule, a healthy class, and they have no more sickness than people living in the cleanest habitations. Then you will find that scavengers in the big cities are around among filth and yet seem to be very healthy.

Q. Then our sanitary needs are no use?—A. Many of them are not.

Q. But if the air is contaminated it must be more or less injurious?—A. Yes, the air; but decomposing matter in itself is not injurious or deleterious to health—as a matter of fact vegetable life lives upon it.

Q. Is it not a fact that the higher orders of fish frequent the more pure and limpid water?—A. Oh, yes.

Q. Salmon frequent pure and limpid water?—A. Yes; they do not frequent any stagnant or impure water.

Q. Then as salmon are a fish whose habits prompt it to always enter more pure or limpid water than those waters that are contaminated, it must be more or less injurious?—A. Yes; if there are any poisonous or deleterious matters in there decomposing.

Q. But if any extraneous matters are thrown in, would it not affect them?—A. Well, it would be food for them.

Q. For the higher orders or the lower?—A. Oh, for the lower.

Q. But if anything is put in this pure and limpid water, would it not affect the quality of the water? If even slightly injurious to fish must it not be injurious to the human family, who are of a still much higher order in the scale of life?—A. Well, we don't know in what way it would affect them.

Q. Then, sir, your conclusion from your own personal knowledge, whether the depositing of offal into the Fraser River in such immense quantities as it is—seven or eight million pounds per annum—do you think it injurious to animal life?—A. I don't think so.

Q. Do you think it beneficial?—A. No; but I think it less injurious than it would be under any other circumstances.

Q. Taking a standard would you put it on the side of being more injurious or more beneficial?—A. I don't think it has any effect in running water.

Q. But if the water is coming backwards and forwards, what then?—A. It is always in motion.

Q. But if lodgments are made along the shore what is the effect?—A. If in warm water, or in water that is standing, it might be injurious.

Q. A large portion of the river—in bays and sloughs—would be water of that description, would it not?—A. Well, I don't think it would be injurious to the surrounding country; but if the people have to drink it, then it might be injurious.

Q. Then if persons are compelled to drink the water it might be injurious?—A. Yes; in shallow water.

Q. In regard to the occupation of fishermen whose residences are principally on scows along shallow waters—in drinking that water, they would come in contact with what would be injurious, would they not?—A. Well, most of them have to be out on the stream, but I find that these men do not suffer as much as those on the land.

Q. Then the people on land suffer more than the fishermen, do they?—A. Yes; but it does not come from the water—it is from the soil and the subsoil.

Q. Have you anything further you desire to state?—A. No; nothing more than that I was asked to give my opinion as to whether this offal going in the river was deleterious or not.

Q. Very well; have you any knowledge of the Ontario Department of Agriculture would you think them a good authority? A good authority in connection with an opinion as to the effects of this offal?—A. Not unless they had a scientific investigation.

Q. But if the Department of Agriculture has certain medical men would not that make their authority good?—A. Yes; I think so.

Q. Have you read an article in the "Colonist" of last Saturday regarding fish and offal?—A. No; I don't think I have.

Q. I will just read portions of it to you. Have you ever heard of Professor James?—A. Yes; I have heard of him.

Q. Well, he was detailed to analyse certain portions of good salmon and herrings, as well as the offal from these fish—all from the province of British Columbia. These samples were sent to him and he seems to have devoted much time and attention to the matter as he gives a long and apparently careful analysis of them. I will just read his conclusions:—

"Conclusion: From the consideration of the whole question, I am of the opinion that the manufacture of the refuse into a fertilizer, is strongly to be recommended, because:

1st. It will thus utilize a by-product that otherwise is a total loss.

2nd. It will prevent the water from becoming contaminated.

3rd. Its proper management must tend towards a more healthful surrounding.

4th. Its return to the soils of the farm will partly offset the waste of our cities by sewerage carried to the lakes and rivers.

5th. If properly handled it will pay well.

From the great importance of this question to the health of the community, the welfare of the fishing industry, and the progress of agriculture, I have endeavoured to reply at this length."

Are these sound conclusions from a scientific man?—A. No, sir; the scientific men of France used theirs as fertilizers—they tried it—but their last instructions were to take it to the sea, for if left on the land the decomposing matters and substances go into the soil. I think where people make a mistake is that it will make a good fertilizer, because on land like we have here the innocent part will be left on the land, but the drainage, &c., will take the more dangerous parts away and carry it down to the rivers.

Q. But if utilized by being manufactured into something, would it not prevent waters from being contaminated into which it would otherwise be put?—A. Well, that would depend upon the conditions of sewage, &c., for I consider it would be far more injurious if left on the land than put in the water.

Q. But would it not tend to a more healthful surrounding, if utilized?—A. Well, perhaps it would; but I know in France they have ordered that it should not be so utilized. I don't think it would have any effect on the health of the community, no matter how much offal was thrown in. As to agriculture and fertilizers, I think the experience in France is a good guide.

Q. Do you belong to the Board of Health of New Westminster?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do you know that the Board of Health has petitioned about this?—A. Yes; but we also have other things that have been petitioned against.

Q. Are they a good authority?—A. Well, yes; they ought to be.

Q. Would not a Crofter immigration be useful to this country?—A. Yes; I think so.

Q. Well, I see that inducements have been offered for Crofters to come to this country, and one of the inducements is that they can catch plenty of fish, and a company is being formed to utilize the offal. In this connection, if you will permit, I will just read you a short extract from an article in the *Victoria Daily Times*, of the 21st February, 1892. The article touches upon the whole subject of the Crofter immigration scheme, and after explaining that the fish caught will be shipped in the cold storage system, &c., it goes on to say:—

"In addition to this it is understood the company will be prepared to cure fish by a variety of processes, extract fish oils, and manufacture fertilizers, &c., from the offal. So that all kinds of fish procurable will be utilized and there shall be no waste. The reader will at once perceive how these two branches of the scheme will work into each other, and the whole tend to the development of the deep-sea fisheries of the province, thus establishing a new industry, the possibilities of which are as boundless as 'our great sea farm.'"—A. I don't object to that at all.

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Q. Well, with the above, and the Government stating that the offal of fish is unhealthy and hurts the water; it surely shows a tendency to prevent its going into the water?—A. There are a number of inducements held out in that way and it might induce parties to make money out of it, but what I am contending is that animal matter put in a river is not injurious, but if put on the soil then it becomes injurious, and when the water sinks down on our soil there is typhoid fever there, but when it rises such all goes away again.

Q. Then you do not agree with the views put forth by Professor James, nor with the Provincial authorities on the matter of the Crofters?—A. No; I think there are several remarks made there for the interest of parties and made to suit them. I will just read you a few extracts from "Keating, on the history of diseases." Dr. Cooper then read several extracts from "Keating's History of Diseases," vol. I., p. 444, relative to the origin of typhoid fever, the transmission of the typhus bacillus, &c.

Q. Have you formed your views, Dr. Cooper, from those books or from your own personal experience and knowledge?—A. Oh, from my own personal knowledge; I only used these books to show what they think in other countries.

Q. Then you disagree with the authorities of the whole civilized world who are trying to keep the rivers pure? Have you any further evidence you wish to give?—A. No; I simply wished to say that I believe no diseases come from offal in rivers; however, I would say that there is one thing that will prevent fish going up a river and that is saw-dust; that will prevent them from going up right enough.

Q. You are aware that saw-dust is thrown into the river and that it is injurious?—A. It is thrown in the inlet and on the sound, and I am sure it hurts the fish; I think the fish dislike contact with it.

Q. And if it settles on the bottom it will prevent vegetable growth, will it not?—A. Yes.

Q. And you think it injurious?—A. I am positive of that.

Q. Well, sir, is there anything further you would wish to urge?—A. No; I think I have stated what I wished to, namely, that I do not consider that the throwing of the offal into the river is injurious to health.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well, sir, that will do.

EDWARD BONFIELD, a native of Ontario, and resident of New Westminster for five years, and a fisherman, was duly sworn. He had also been a fisherman on Lake Erie, in Ontario.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, sir, what do you wish to state in connection with the Fraser River fisheries, or any of the other fisheries of British Columbia?—Well, I came here on the recommendation of an immigration agent, and through the circulation of pamphlets stating that fishermen were in great demand in this province. When I came here I found they were not at all in demand, in fact there was no demand. When I tried at the canneries for employment they told me they employed Siwashas. The next year there was a limit put upon the number of licenses. I applied for a license but could not get one. When I went to a cannery for a boat and net I was told again, "We intend to employ Siwashas this year and work at different schemes; we intend to put a double shift on and work day and night; we will employ men by day's work this year." The year before they had put most of the boats on a certain percentage of fish in payment. I managed to get employed by getting in that fall on an outside license. We were given to understand when these licenses were given out to individual fishermen that it was a sort of recompense for the rest of the licenses being given to the canners.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Tell what you know yourself; we don't want what you understand.—A. Well, we read in the papers about it. The following year after that I applied for a license again. This is the fourth year I have applied, but so far have been unsuccessful.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Have other persons who applied after you got licenses ?—A. They have.

Q. Do you know why ?—A. Well, either they got them through influence or friends.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—There you go again—you don't know that, you "think."

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Did any of these people tell you why ? Why they got their licenses in preference to you ?—A. No.

Q. You have been a fisherman, you say ?—A. I have.

Q. How do you work ?—A. Here I have been employed by the day, on shares, and in different ways.

Q. A share as a fishing boat was what ?—A. One-half.

Q. If you had a license of your own would you have double ?—A. No ; I would have to give another man one-half.

Q. What value do you get for fish—what per share ?—A. We get 5 cents each.

Q. Who owned the license ?—A. My partner owned the license ; he was one of those that applied since.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Do you think the canneries should have a certain number of licenses each ?—A. Not an excessive number—they have too much of a monopoly of the business now. I don't see why they should have any.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Why not ?—A. Because they can buy of the fishermen at reasonable rates.

Q. You say they have a monopoly now—suppose the canners had no licenses granted to them, could not the fishermen form a monopoly against the canners ?—A. No ; they have no other market for their fish—they are obliged to sell to the canneries.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Do you think every fisherman who applied should get a license ?—A. No ; I think that would be detrimental to the best interests of the river.

Q. How many do you think should be issued ?—A. Well, the present number is very good— it is about as many as can be accommodated on the river, without the fishermen getting in each other's way.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Then you think five or six hundred quite ample for the capacity of the Fraser River ?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. How many qualified white fishermen are there on the river ?—A. That I am unable to say.

Q. Do you think there are enough fishermen on the river now to do all the work necessary ?—A. I don't think so at present.

Q. Then how would the canneries be supplied if they got no licenses ?—A. There are Indians and others ; but if the white men could not do the work for the canneries, the balance of the licenses might go to the canners.

Q. Then you think, if licenses were given to all individual fishermen, the canneries would get abundance of fish for their canneries ?—A. I think so.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. And should it include all British subjects ?—A. Yes ; all British subjects who want them.

Q. What is your experience or views with regard to the offal being thrown into the river?—A. I think it injurious in a way.

Q. In what way?—A. It floats down and injures the nets—in some localities it is very nasty for the people on some of the sloughs. It is injurious in all other parts where I have been. I remember at Port Ryerse—a large fishery was carried on at Long Point and the offal was scattered over the land, with the result that an epidemic became prevalent and popular opinion placed it on the offal being thrown on the land as the real cause.

Q. Have you found the water offensive for use?—A. Well, not in the river—not to the taste.

Q. What other injury, then?—A. In washing up on the shore and lying on the land, especially in the sloughs.

Q. What do you think of the close season?—A. I think the close season as at present is of no use; it is principally for the sockeye salmon that it is carried out.

Q. I mean the Sunday close season?—A. Oh, I think that very beneficial to both fishermen and canners, as it gives them rest and allows them to clean up for Monday.

Q. What as to the fish?—A. It lets them get up and is beneficial.

Q. What as to an annual close season?—A. It is of very little use, in my opinion.

Q. Are the runs of fish in this river regular every year?—No, they are not, though they are more regular the last few years than they used to be.

Q. And do the runs seem better of late years?—A. Yes, they seem to be.

Q. Can you give any reason for that and the greater regularity of the runs?—A. Well, there may be some natural cause—for instance, high water comes up soon some years.

Q. Do you think there has been any artificial cause—do you think the hatchery has been any benefit?—A. Yes; it has been beneficial in other places, why not here?

Q. And do you think that more hatcheries should be started?—A. Yes; I think it would be better to have more.

Q. Where do you fish in the river?—A. Oh, I fish in all parts.

Q. Where do you get the best luck?—A. Well, from the Gurry Bush out is the best fishing place. The mouth of the river has generally been used because it allows better scope for the fishermen's boats.

Q. Then do you think 500 boats enough to sustain the fishery?—A. Yes; I think so. If there were any more they would be crowding each other.

Q. How many boats have you seen out beyond Gurry Bush?—A. Oh, from two to three hundred.

Q. Do you call the mouth of the river from Gurry Bush down to Pelly Point?—A. Well, I call the mouth of the river outside of Gurry Point, including the sand flats. There are several channels and some are accounted very good.

Q. What effect would it have on the river above Gurry Point up to New Westminster if fishing were not so largely carried on outside of Gurry Point?—A. I don't think it would make much difference.

Q. Don't you think more fish would come in?—A. Well, more might come in, but the boats would be so crowded they would be in each other's way.

Q. But if more fish come in would it not be beneficial? Would it not be beneficial to the river?—A. Well, yes, of course.

Q. What size of net do you use—that is, how deep?—A. Thirty, forty and fifty meshes.

Q. How many fish a day do you catch as a rule—say, during the last three years?—A. Oh, four or five hundred would be about the average.

Q. About how long do the sockeyes run?—A. About six weeks.

Q. Then you catch about twelve or thirteen thousand in a season?—A. No; I never caught as many as that. I never caught more than seven, eight, or ten thousand in a whole season. There is one thing I would like to say, and that is, that I believe it would be a very good thing if fishermen were allowed to catch sea trout.

Q. Are they not allowed to catch them now?—I don't think trout fishing is forbidden by the law on the subject?—A. Well, I never could get any information about it.

Mr. WILMOT—(referring to the Fishery Regulations for British Columbia).—Well, here are the regulations regarding trout fishing—I will read you what it says :—

"Section 2. Trout Fisheries.—No one shall fish for, catch or kill trout from the 15th October to 15th March, both days inclusive, in each year: provided always that Indians may, at any time, catch or kill trout for their own use, but not for the purpose of sale or traffic."

This would, however, I presume, be subject to the first section of the regulations for the province, for the capture of these fish, for section one says :—

"Fishing by means of nets or other apparatus, without leases or licenses from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, is prohibited in all waters of British Columbia."

—A. But I mean sea trout. They have the same habits as salmon.

Q. Well, but these sea trout, as you call them, are like the young salmon—only that the one remains in salt water while the other is in fresh water. Fishing is prohibited from the 15th October to the 15th March. Well, sir, is there anything further you desire to state?—A. No, sir, I think not.

MURDOCH McLAUCHLIN, a native of Scotland, a fisherman, and resident of New Westminster for two years, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. I notice that a great many of you who come forward give in your occupation as fishermen, but will not that be only for a short time?—A. Well, if you have a license you can make it last all the year round. I have been a fisherman all my life and was a fisherman in Scotland before coming here.

Q. Have you anything to suggest upon the questions before this Commission?—A. Well, about these cannery licenses—the licenses that were granted last year to new canneries, but no fish were put up, while the licenses were used.

Q. Do you know the number of licenses that were used?—A. I don't know the number, but I know the canneries—Mr. Ewen's, Mr. Laidlaw's, Mr. Wadham's and Mr. English's, all new canneries last year, but they never canned a fish in any one of them—two of them I don't think have the smoke-stack on them yet since the sockeye run was over.

Q. These buildings—are they good, sound, substantial buildings?—A. No; I don't think so—they were put up in my estimation simply to get licenses. I have no doubt there would have been canning in Mr. Ewen's only that there was so many fish last year and he put all his up in his old cannery. Also, the people who hold licenses to salt and freeze, they sell their fish to the canneries in the sockeye season—they use their licenses in the spring fishing, but sell their fish to the canneries in the summer. We don't think this is fair at all, because to a man with ten licenses it is worth \$10,000 to lay aside in the house and do nothing else.

Q. Why do you not think it fair?—A. Because they get licenses and fishermen cannot get licenses—we came to this country purposely to fish—we are real, actual fishermen, and yet we find we cannot get leave to fish—we certainly think it very unfair.

Q. What induced you to come to this country?—A. Why there were pamphlets distributed all around our place at home stating that this was a great country for fishing, farming, &c.

Q. Have you tried farming?—A. No; that is not in my line—fishing is my line. I was brought up a fisherman.

Q. You have fished, though, here, have you?—A. Yes; for Mr. Ewen.

Q. Did he furnish you with boats and tackle?—A. Yes.

Q. What remuneration did you get per day or did you fish on shares?—A. We fished on shares.

Q. How much did you get?—A. Five cents. The syndicate only gave 12½, Wadham gave 15 and Mr. Ewen gave 20.

- Q. And you got five?—A. Yes; of course the other man in the boat got five, too.
Q. Then the price paid was 10 cents a fish?

By Mr. Armstrong:

- Q. And the other 10 cents went for the boat and net?—A. Yes.
Q. And do you think you could do better if you had a license—would you not have to get a boat and net?—A. Oh, that does not mean so much.

By Mr. Wilmot:

- Q. How many fish did you catch?—A. 5,000.

By Mr. Armstrong:

- Q. How long were you fishing?—A. From the 9th of July to the close of the season on the 25th August.

By Mr. Wilmot:

- Q. Does the proprietor of the cannery board you?—A. No; we board ourselves.
Q. Have you formed any opinions as to the effects of this offal—the effects of throwing it in the river in such immense quantities?—A. Yes; I think it injures the fish and also the men fishing in the river.
Q. Why do you think it injures the fish?—A. Because the offal gets rotten and the water cannot be pure. If it was slow water I don't think the salmon would come into the river at all.
Q. What effect do you think it has upon man?—A. Well, I don't know.
Q. Have you ever been affected?—A. Yes; I have had diarrhea through it.
Q. And you attributed it to the water?—A. Yes; because I never had anything at all the matter with me until the sockeye season, and then I had to boil the water before using it.
Q. Does the offal affect the nets?—A. Yes; it rots them to a certain extent.
Q. How does it rot them?—A. The slime and stuff gets on the nets and rots them and makes lots of labour for us in cleaning them.
Q. Does it affect the people living along the river who drink the water?—A. Well, I cannot say that—I only know about myself, though fever was prevalent all along.
Q. Does the offal lodge in the bays, sloughs, &c.?—A. Yes; and when the tide goes out the stench is frightful.

By Mr. Armstrong:

- Q. Do you think the canneries ought to have any licenses?—A. No, I don't think so—canning fish is one industry, and catching them is another.
Q. Do you think every fisherman who applies should have a license?—A. Yes.
Q. Are there fishermen enough on the river to do all that is necessary?—A. Yes, quite enough—give the licenses to the fishermen and the canneries would be as well supplied as they are now—it would be more expensive though, I suppose, for the canners.

By Mr. Wilmot:

- Q. In what way?—A. Well, the way they fish now they pay two Indians who fish all day and then two others take the boat and fish all night and one gets \$2.25 and the other \$2.50 in both shifts.
Q. Do you see many fish floating down the river dead?—A. Yes; a great many of them, principally sockeyes in the latter part of August.
Q. Are those fish that come down from the upper part of the river, or are they injured in the river?—A. I think they are fish that have been injured in the net. Many after getting in the net struggle and get out, but they are more or less injured.
Q. Do you think all fish that come up the river to spawn and die after spawning, or do they return to the sea?—A. Oh, they return to the sea.
Q. What evidence have you of that?—A. We have caught them down the river after they have spawned.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. What time in the year do you catch them?—A. In the latter part of August.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. When do you knock off fishing?—A. At the end of the sockeye season, the 25th August.

Q. Then you cannot say what quantity of fish that have been spent by spawning above—pass down the river?—A. Well, the next month you see is closed—probably they all pass down in that month.

Q. Then you think it an error that all fish that come up die?—A. Some die—many of them—but many return to the sea.

Q. You fish with the usual depth of net?—A. Yes; between 30 and 40 meshes outside the river and from 50 to 60 meshes inside.

Q. Is there any further matters you would like to represent to us?—A. No, sir.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well then—that will do, sir, thank you.

Mr. WILMOT.—I may mention, Mr. Armstrong and gentlemen, that it may be considered on the part of outsiders and on the part also of others here, that it is useless to ask the same questions from all parties that come before us; but these are the matters at issue between the cannery and the fishermen, and the department wishes to get all the information possible—that is the reason why I repeat the same questions so often to the different witnesses. It may be a matter that may cause parliamentary discussion and therefore the Government is anxious to get all the information possible. I speak in this way from my stand-point and view of the case, and I wish you will understand my reasons for doing this.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Oh, yes; I quite understand—that's all right.

Mr. J. E. LORD, of New Westminster :

I would say that this discrimination in license fees bears very harshly on fishermen. Why should we on the Fraser River be called upon to pay \$20, while only \$5 is paid for a license on the Skeena and other rivers?

Mr. WILMOT.—When we adjourn from here we will hear from the people on the Skeena, I hope, and they may tell you very good reasons for paying only \$5.

Mr. LORD.—But the tariff should be general; does it cost more to control the fishermen on the Fraser River?

Mr. WILMOT.—In my experience it does, sir.

Mr. LORD.—Well, I may call your attention to the fact that if trouble arose on the north-west coast it would take a man-of-war and hundreds of dollars, whereas you could manage things on the Fraser with a couple of policemen.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I object, Mr. Chairman, to this man addressing you in this way, if he has nothing new; he has spoken, and has been before us previously, and if he has no new points I think he should not be heard.

Mr. LORD.—Oh, well, I will sit down; I merely wanted to show that I considered there was an unjust discrimination, that's all.

Mr. WILMOT.—Yes; we cannot have persons addressing remarks from the audience.

JOHN PETERSEN, a native of Sweden, a fisherman, and resident of New Westminster for eleven years, was sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, sir, what have you to state?—A. My trouble is I cannot get a license.

Q. Had you a license before?—Yes, I had a license before, but for three years now I have been unable to get them.

Q. Was any reason given for this?—A. Well, I went to the Skeena River, and when I came back here I could not get one.

Q. Were you told that?—A. Mr. Mowat told me all the licenses were out, and that I could not get one.

Q. Since that you have been fishing in what way?—A. Fishing for the canneries on shares.

Q. In the same way as others who have been here?—A. Yes, sir; about the same.

Q. Do you think that all British subjects of the country who are fishermen actually should get a license if they want it?—A. Yes; in preference to all canners, fish dealers and freezers.

Q. Why would you debar canners and freezers?—A. Because they could buy all the fish they wanted from the fishermen without having licenses of their own.

Q. Would they have to pay more for their fish under these circumstances?—A. Yes; to a certain extent they would.

Q. And you think the fishermen would get more?—A. Yes; they would get more.

Q. And the canners would have to pay more?—A. Yes; because they could not hire Indians.

Q. Then you think one license sufficient for each fisherman?—A. Yes, sir; one boat, one man, one license.

Q. And the average number of fish taken by you—would it correspond with the evidence you have heard just before—400 fish to a boat, a day?—A. No, sir; my average was less; some years they are very numerous and some less.

Q. But take an average; say the last three years?—A. Oh, well, about 300 a day for the best part of the season.

Q. You got for those 10 cents each?—A. Yes, sir; but only one year out of three—in the other years we got a little less. Twenty cents for salmon has only been this last year.

Q. Well, persons fishing alongside of you, what prices would they get?—A. Some 12 to 15 and 20 cents a fish.

Q. What did they pay for fish other years?—A. I have fished for 5 cents and furnished my own boat and net. Ten cents was the highest for years, and 20 cents is the highest price known on this river.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Then when fish were only 10 cents—when two of you were fishing you would only get 2½ cents each?—A. No; we got 6 cents—3 cents apiece, and the canner got 4 cents.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. What about the offal that is thrown in the river—do you think it injurious or otherwise?—A. I think so—I think it hurts the fish and the water and is unhealthy.

Q. What are your views as to the weekly close time?—A. I think it good till six o'clock Sunday.

Q. How do you view that from a moral standpoint?—A. Oh, I am not very religious myself—I consider Sunday over at six o'clock in the evening.

Q. Some people think it over at daylight in the morning?—A. Oh, well, they probably have a night view of the question.

Q. Do you think the fish are increasing or decreasing?—A. I think them as good as when I first came here.

Q. Do you think the hatchery has done any good?—A. Yes; I think it has been good.

Q. Have you been fishing at the mouth of the river?—A. Yes; during the sockeye run I have fished there.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. It is the easiest place to catch fish, it is not?—A. Well, there is more room for boats.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. The great majority of the fishing is done at the mouth of the river during the sockeye season, is it not?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you made any observations regarding the red and white salmon?—A. Yes, a little.

Q. Are both used in the markets?—A. No ; canners don't use the white at all, and fish markets and freezers will not take them, unless they cannot help themselves.

Q. What is done with them?—A. Fishermen salt them a good deal but some may be thrown away. I would suggest about the freezers—they are holding ten licenses and they don't use them—they sell their fish to the canneries and don't put them in their freezers. I can prove this, and I think if the licenses they absorb were distributed among the actual fishermen it would be a great deal better.

Q. Then you consider it unfair that freezers should be given ten licenses and not use them but sell them to the canneries?—A. Yes, sir, I do.

Q. Is there anything further you would like to state?—A. No, sir.

PETER BIRRELL, a native of Scotland, but for thirty-two years a resident of British Columbia, a salmon canner and resident of New Westminster, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, sir, have you any statement you desire to make?—A. Well, I would rather answer any questions you may wish to ask.

Q. Well, sir, one of the most important questions is this offal question—what are your views?—A. Well, I believe that it is not deleterious at all, neither to health, either of fish or human life, so long as it is deposited in the channel of the river.

Q. You think it not injurious?—A. From my observation I have not seen any ill effects, and I believe it is thoroughly impracticable to do away with it without materially affecting the industry. I have tried in a small way to burn some of it and took a day's work in the cannery to make the trial, and the one day was very offensive, but I did it with the object of using it as a fertilizer, but it was not good as a fertilizer—it killed some of my trees.

Q. You think it not injurious if put into the water, but injurious if put on the land?—A. Yes ; without using proper judgment.

Q. Do you put up your views as against practical men and scientists of approved worth?—A. Well, I had some of that. So far as heads of fish are concerned and the men who have only a knowledge of fish on the east coast, they don't know much of our fish out here.

Q. Do you know it is a fact that offal is not allowed to go into the rivers in other places?—A. Well, I don't know it as a fact, but it is different from out here. This is a very large body of water and there is a strong current, and in the old country it is thickly inhabited, and it is very desirable to keep the water as pure as possible. As people do here I don't see where it has been offensive, except in the immediate vicinity of town. If there is no suitable place where discharged, the cannery takes it to places where the small fishes can feed on it. I am sure that the offal does not get but a few hundred feet from the cannery before all the offal is devoured by these small fish, and the heads and tails are devoured by the seals. At my cannery, and, I believe, near all the canneries, there are large numbers of sturgeon, and I know Indians go out with a line and get any numbers of them.

Q. Do seals come up to your cannery?—A. Oh, yes ; the seals come right up the river.

Q. To any extent?—A. Well, not as much here as in some rivers on the coast, and they dispose of the larger offal—the heads and tails, because I have never heard of any heads being found down at the mouth of the river from any of the canneries.

Q. Then you don't believe the evidence given by persons here that they have taken heads and tails from their nets?—A. I don't believe it to be true, except in some cases where persons have been salting fish, and a good deal of offal is got in shallow water.

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Q. You are engaged in the canning business?—A. I am engaged in the canning business.

Q. What cannery?—A. The British Columbia Packing Company.

Q. One of the syndicate?—A. Yes.

Q. Of what capacity is that cannery?—A. Well, I have put up 26,000 cases in one season.

Q. But the average, say for the last three years?—A. About 15,000 cases. The last three years, a little less than that.

Q. Is yours of the same capacity as others, excepting Mr. Ewen's?—A. Yes, excepting Mr. Ewen's. His is a little larger. Mine is about as the others.

Q. Well, the fish that are caught daily are brought in—the heads and tails are cut off—how are these disposed of?—A. It has been disposed of in this way. In the early years of the canning industry we just let it run into the water, and it was very deleterious when it became putrid and floated in to the sides of the river, but this year we have made arrangements to dispose of it in the channel of the river, and at my cannery, by adopting this mode, no one had been annoyed from offal from my place. The offal used to float there, but I have made provision for that, and no one can have a word to say from offensiveness or on account of the offal going there, for it does not interfere with anyone. Of course, where I am situated, there is no one but myself anyway, and it was offensive, only I made arrangements for disposing of it in this way.

Q. Your fish are caught, brought in and put in the cannery—their heads and tails cut off and entrails taken out, and the offal shoved into the water?—A. Yes; but we have deep water.

Q. Then if the offal falls down it does not fall into the channel of the river, does it?—A. Well, where my cannery is there are two channels.

Q. Do not canneries stand on piles?—A. Yes; most of them are.

Q. And are the piles numerous?—A. Yes; they are generally eight by ten, sufficient to hold up the building.

Q. And the offal is thrown down amongst these piles?—A. Generally, but they are making provision now to take it all into the current. Of course where there is no current it piles up, but in the channel it goes right off.

Q. Can you run a hopper out from your buildings to the channel?—A. Yes; in most of them, I believe.

Q. And you think it would be injurious in the shallow waters and where it could not get away, but if thrown in the channel it would not be injurious?—A. Quite so—I think so from long observation and experience.

Q. And do you build canneries in channels or deep water?—A. We always like to get them in a channel or deep water because steam-boats must load our fish, &c., and we must have plenty of water for the boats to come alongside, &c.

Q. During past years have you conveyed the offal in scows out to the deep water channel, or allowed it to run into the river?—A. This last year I have conveyed it by spouts and it was perfectly effective.

Q. Then the conclusion you come to is that offal is not injurious if put into the channel, and it is injurious if in shallow water?—A. Well, not to fish life—I don't think it is, because there are myriads of decomposed fish that come down the river—I don't think it injurious to fish life or any life.

Q. But I suppose you know corporate boards in towns always consider it a nuisance?—A. Well, I suppose so—you know a cannery is not an eau de cologne factory (laughter), and amongst people it is not well liked.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Do you think any disposition could be made of that offal in any other way than by putting it in the river?—A. None other—you must put it in the river.

Q. Do you not think it might be made into oil and fertilizers?—A. Well, I have examined into that thoroughly. Mr. Lawson and Mr. McDavin have a good deal of money in an oil refinery at Vancouver, and have sunk a good deal of money getting all modern appliances for pressing out oil and drying refuse of fish for fertilizers. I met

them in New York and they asked me to investigate the thing, and I did so as far as I could. I made inquiry and got acquainted with most of the oil factories in Massachusetts. I told them conditions here were very different, and told them I did not think they could possibly make a success of it. I took some time and spent some days in looking up this drying process. There they use artificial heat for drying it, but the difference is, this fertilizer brings \$33 a ton in England—it can be cured to ship across to England from the eastern sea-board, but it is impossible to cure it here to ship to England—the ship would have to be abandoned before it got to England. The people of the company even got the president, a Frenchman, to come out and I met him here and he thought they ought to succeed in doing it, but when they took into account the difference in climate and the distance to ship the product, they abandoned it. Then Joe Spratt took hold of it and they spent several thousands of dollars in it, but it all was given up. Joe Spratt put a good deal of money in it and he had to give it up, and what was the result? All the refuse had to be dumped into the water, and all that had the effect of poisoning the water at English Bay, and really I think that drove the herrings out of the inlet—I cannot say for certain, but I really believe that did;—of course Burrard's Inlet is a big difference to this river.

Q. Do you know the unfortunate way in which you cannerymen stand by the law? You know there is a law on the Statute-book of the Dominion that you are liable to fine every time you throw offal into the river. Now you know no Government, either Provincial or Dominion, has the right to say the law shall not be carried out. Now, any man can go before a magistrate and complain of it and have you fined for it every time?—A. Well, you would have to stop the industry. I quite understand that about the law, but this industry is a very important one and gives employment to many persons on this river.

Q. Well, you should take some steps to get this law repealed?—A. Well, we have taken steps, but the department has been very remiss in complying with the suggestions we made—that is our opinion out here.

Q. Well, I think the department has been very lenient as the law is. Here is the position you are in. Any man whom you may offend can go and have you fined every day you do it?—A. Well, it is a farce about the offal being an injury to the fish.

Q. Well, but there is the law?—A. We have been fighting to remedy the matter and have sent a delegation to Ottawa to have laws formulated to suit the industry and the welfare of all parties concerned. This delegation came back here and gave the balance of people engaged in the industry—gave us to understand that everything was going to be put all right, and that those gentlemen who conduct matters in the department were quite in accord with them in their opinion, but when the rules came out they were very different—they were ridiculous, and in fact we could not carry on our business. Then we went to our members and an Order in Council was passed rescinding it, and then we put offal in the river for our own comfort, and at a meeting the other day we agreed to make provision to put it in deep water.

Q. Of course the Governor in Council has power to make rules and regulations in reference to the fisheries, but the Governor in Council has no power to rescind the Act. They can make rules and regulations under the Act, and the Act says you may be fined?—A. Well, if Mr. Wilnot had remained here when the telegram from the department came asking if it was convenient for him to come now, I was in Victoria. I said no, we could leave this thing till the fish were running and get Mr. Wilnot, for we know Mr. Wilnot is quite an authority on fish—eastern fish—and we could disabuse his mind on many points regarding our fish, but they wanted these rules made for the commencement of the fishing.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—But, Mr. Birrell, this Commission is not here to carry out Mr. Wilnot's views or my views—we are here to go upon the evidence.

By Mr. Wilnot:

Q. I believe I heard you say you have made arrangements to put the offal in the deep part of the river—why, did you not put it there before?—A. Yes; we have made arrangements to do it.

Q. Then you think it injurious otherwise?—A. I think it not injurious to fish life, but it is offensive to people in the immediate vicinity.

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Q. But this was acknowledgment of canning people that offal was offensive and that by putting it out in the river you would overcome that offensiveness?—A. Quite so.

Q. You say your establishment employs many people?—A. Yes.

Q. How many are employed in your establishment?—A. About ninety.

Q. How many of the ninety are actual settlers and *bonâ fide* people of this country—how many white men?—A. Well, not many—about six or seven—sometimes more—sometimes ten.

Q. And the rest are what?—A. Chinese and Indian women.

Q. Then do you think you employ the real *bonâ fide* people of this country?—A. Yes; we employ the lords of the soil, respectable Chilliwaks. (Laughter.)

Q. Now if half of the people were respectable white people would it not be better for the country?—A. Well, if we could get them.

Q. You don't get them as long as you can get Indians and squaws at lower prices?

A. Well, I don't know.

Q. You stated that offal going into some bay near here drove the herring away?—A. Well, in English Bay the offal was the offal of the oil factory—not heads and tails of fish.

Q. Then you think there is a difference between that offal and the offal here?—A. I will tell you—the factory was a failure. They filled it full of this refuse and it spoilt on them. They got unlimited numbers of herrings and they pressed them for the oil and the refuse was dumped in. I don't know how many times they filled up their factory and tried to make it into a fertilizer and failed. Then the lands here don't want any fertilizer—the farmers would not use it.

Q. You put up 15,000 cases of fish, principally sockeye—what was the average weight of these fish?—A. Well, nearly eight-pounds, probably a little less—between seven and eight.

Q. Then in going through the process with an eight pound fish you would make how many cans?—A. Well, they would average but little less than five-four and a half to five cans.

Q. Then three and a half pounds goes as offal?—A. No; not so much as that for this account, because there is always more fish in a can than a pound—generally an average of not less than eighteen ounces.

Q. You put that in for shrinkage?—A. No; not at all, but you take any can of fish and you will find they go over a pound, many twenty-one ounces—then the can, solder, and all, weighs three and a quarter to three and a half ounces.

Q. Then do I understand you to say the canners put in upwards of 60,000 pounds overweight in packing 15,000 cases?—A. Well yes, I think, as a rule. They may not average that—of course we are very careful and always do our best to have the full weight in. They don't all average that, some may be a fraction less in size or in depth, but I think my cans as a rule will average an ounce or two more or less over the pound. Then some of course are short, but we try our best not to have any less in the tins because there is reclamation then and a loss to the packer.

Q. Then you give 60,000 pounds overplus?—A. Well, about that.

Q. Have you ever thought of the quantity of offal thrown into the river from the canneries working on the river?—A. Oh, of course it must be very great.

Q. Between seven and eight million pounds of offal?—A. Well, I suppose it may be—I never figured on that.

Q. You read a report that was published—a report of an inspection of this river two or three years ago, did you not?—A. Well, I read some report—yes.

Q. If that report makes just exactly these figures you are now stating, it is pretty nearly correct, is it not?—A. I should think so, yes.

Q. As I first concluded from your remarks, you think it is not injurious if thrown into the channel of the river, but injurious or offensive if put in shallow water?—A. Offensive? Yes, if allowed to remain near the banks where there is no current.

Q. Would its offensiveness be so much as to cause miasmatic air?—A. Well, it would not be nice, I know.

Q. Would it be a preventive to some good, sound, wholesome men settling there?—A. Not in near my cannery. It would be uninhabitable, I believe, if the refuse of the cannery was buried within half a mile from any cannery, and as a matter of fact the oil factory at Burrard Inlet, it was so offensive to the people there that the people burned it—burned the factory up. I was through the town about a year before they burned it up and the offensiveness was very great.

Q. If you were living in the neighbourhood where such bad smells were created, would help in the same thing?—A. Well, I am not an incendiary.

Q. But you would not like it?—A. No, I would not like it.

Q. You made some remarks as to the canners going to Ottawa. Are you aware that suggestions were carried out at their instigation?—A. It was said so.

Q. Have you read the reports of the department?—A. Well, I used to, but I don't get them now.

Q. You think the report made in regard to offal thrown into the river by an officer of the department was not correct?—A. Well, if the officer reported it was put in the channel of the river it would not be deleterious to fish life or offensive to anybody. I concur in that, and I think so does everybody.

Q. What about the limitation of nets?—A. Well, I think it is necessary that each cannery should have 25 nets for the proper conduct of their business. Those who have a capacity for more and wish to do so can buy fish from outside boats.

Q. You put the canners on the same basis, but if one has an excess in capacity he could get from outside boats?—A. Yes.

Q. What about fishermen?—A. Give them a net and license each.

Q. As many as applied for them?—A. No, I am different from some of the cannermen in that regard—I believe it would be well to fix a limit. I believe that is very desirable to encourage men who follow fishing at present on the river—they do nothing else and make their living on the river. These men are very useful in supplying the markets with fresh fish which it does not pay the canners to put up. These men, if there is no protection, the result will be they don't make much out of the spring fishing, they make very little over net and boat, &c., but they depend almost entirely upon the prices they get during the sockeye run—the result will be, if everybody goes into the river, even if they get 15 cents, they will have to abandon the fishing, because they cannot make enough to keep them at that business all the year round. The trouble is, that there are many foreign fishermen during the sockeye run and if they come in the fish will cost too much, and few by each man will be caught.

Q. How many licenses should your cannery get?—A. Twenty-five.

Q. You want all the rest of the canneries to get twenty-five?—A. Yes; I think all should get twenty-five.

Q. What chance would ordinary fishermen have if all the canneries on the river got twenty-five each?—A. Well, there would be enough outside fishermen to supply the local demand.

Q. Then you think the local demand enough for outside fishermen?—A. There would be little, if any, work for them from the cannery.

Q. In an abundant season how many boats would supply your cannery with 15,000 cases?—A. Oh, that would altogether depend upon the abundance of fish.

Q. Yes; but on an average?—A. I think twenty-five on an average.

Q. Fifteen would not supply you at all?—A. Oh, no.

Q. Would twenty-five fully?—A. Yes.

Q. Then if the cannermen had twenty-five boats there would be no work for outside fishermen at all?—A. Not at all; some canneries some years ago used the products of double that number.

Q. Well, but I am putting you all down at twenty-five; would not the result be no chance for outside fishermen to sell fish?—A. No; it would not be the result, because if I engage outside fishermen it is customary for outside men to make arrangements to take fish beforehand.

Q. Yes; if the canneries had not enough boats of their own?—A. Oh, no. Excuse me—on one occasion I gave nine men a contract to supply me with fish. Well, fish

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came in very abundant that year—I took the fish from those nine boats—I never refused one, and because I got more fish than I could handle I withdrew my own boats.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Was not the reason because you had a contract?—A. Yes.

Q. Would it not be different if there was no contract?—A. Well, I have always done this, even if I had outside boats I have always taken a fair share of fish from them.

Q. Would you give a fair number of licenses to freezers or salters?—A. Well, it is not for me to say that. It is my opinion that these so-called freezers are not freezers at all; they are the same as outside fishermen. These can get ten licenses each, and they speculate with them.

Q. Would you give them more than one license?—A. These men who have a trade in fresh fish to be put up in broken ice, these men ought to have licenses, but ten is an excess—more than they use. Mr. Vienna follows that business entirely; I think he ought to have three or four licenses; I think that would be quite sufficient. The other places are the same.

Q. The freezers you think are about froze out?—A. Are about froze out. (Laughter.)

Q. Do you think curtailing the number of licenses to be issued on the river puts a commercial value on them?—A. Which?

Q. On the licenses—more than what would be if every fisherman who applied got a license?—A. I don't clearly understand you.

Q. Does it not make them more valuable? For instance, we have it here that as high as \$50 has been paid for licenses; after the canneries got their number only a few were left, and consequently they brought as high as \$50?—A. Well, I should say that would establish a commercial value, if it is sure they were sold for that price.

Q. Well, do you think it would be any injury to the fisheries generally if every British subject got a license?—A. Well, I think it would be injurious to the cannery people because so few fish would be caught in the boats it would not pay them, and the same for the single fishermen, because few fish would be caught each.

Q. But would it be injurious to the fisheries interest if every British subject got a license who paid for it?—A. Well, I really think it would not; I am not prepared to give an opinion, but I don't think it would.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. You say that with twenty boats you have taken 15,000 cases?—A. No; I don't say that; I had twenty licenses, but I might have twenty outsiders as well.

Q. Still, twenty boats have produced for you 15,000 cases; well, there are twenty-two canneries on the river—multiply 15,000 by 22 and we get 330,000 cases with twenty-two canneries. Now, 330,000 cases are greater than you had on the Fraser River?

—A. But there are canneries that have not operated yet.

Q. Yes; but we are not putting them in; only the twenty-two who operated. Now, if you get twenty-five boats it will give you 412,500 cases; the consequence would be you almost double the catch you have had any time; now, would you buy a single fish from outside fishermen?—A. Well, but you are taking the supposition that there will be a good year every year.

Q. I take your own average.—A. Well, but these last couple of years have been fairly good.

Q. Well, according to your own statement, in 1890 you had 13,116 cases (report Board of Trade, 1890, p. 52). Now, if you had twenty-five boats you would have your factory filled with as many cases as you had any of these years; now, would you employ an outside boat?—A. Of course we would; we have to arrange before the fishing commences, and if fish are not abundant we don't get fish enough to keep us going, then we lay off our own boats.

Q. And with twenty-two canneries you would employ 132 white men, and all the rest would be Siwash and Chinamen, and not a single white man to run your canneries?—A. Oh, but there are a great many men employed outside of direct work in the canneries. There is coal and wood to be got, &c.

Q. But I put this because we have had extravagant requests from fishermen here who wanted to get all the licenses, and now you say the fishermen should not have licenses?—A. No; I don't say that.

Q. Well, that is the English of it.—A. No; excuse me.

Q. But if you have twenty-five boats it is more than you want?—A. No; it is not more than I want, because if there is plenty of fish I will have to withdraw my own boats.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. But we have before us that it takes \$5,000 to build a cannery, and you get \$25,000 gain by not employing outside licenses.—A. It is not the case.

Mr. WILMOT.—Perhaps you should not make these remarks as yet, but we get so conflicting statements. Here we see where good men come to the country and then they cannot get a license to fish.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. And here is a man who gets ten licenses and lets them out and walks around town with his hands in his pockets and a good fisherman cannot get a license to fish. Now, don't you think that should be regulated?—A. Yes, certainly, and time and time again I have urged it that freezers have got an undue proportion of licenses. I acted for secretary of the board fourteen years ago, and I know that.

Q. Do you know of any influence brought to bear by those people to get licenses?—A. No; I don't know; I have heard, but I really cannot say.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—It seems there has been unfair influence brought to bear by someone or somebody.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. And in taking down this evidence it would be wrong for us to do so, that either cannerymen or fishermen shall have all the licenses, so we have to take both sides. I think that the cannerymen should have a sufficient number of licenses to enable them to independently carry on their business without being overrun by the fishermen, but I also think the fishermen who are good men should not be debarred from their fishing too. A.—Well, those are my sentiments; but I wish to say a word or two about the way Mr. Wilmot has been taking evidence and putting questions. Some of the men who have given evidence are very good men and have been on the river some time, others have not; but the way the questions were put was particularly to bring out the views of these men from an eastern standpoint. We think highly of your views on eastern matters, but we don't think much of them on points here.

Q. Well, I think when intelligent men come forward, I ask questions as I think correct?—A. But I think you should not eulogize men who come forward. It has this tendency: it elicited and got evidence from men who have little or no experience. There are some here who had, but most of these men quite agree with you about the habits and methods of the fish, but these men have had no experience here.

Q. But you had experience in Scotland, had you not?—A. Well, perhaps; but there are men who have given evidence here who cannot tell the familiar dog-fish from a sock-eye. It will have this effect—I don't think they do it intentionally. It has this effect: here is the preponderance of evidence establishing matters which we know to be erroneous, and it will militate against this industry.

Q. But I am simply endeavouring to gain knowledge. There was a time, years ago, when people didn't believe electricity could drive a car, but knowledge has brought it out?—A. Yes; I know that.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, but if we allow you the same privilege to rebut this evidence, you cannot complain—you can put in any evidence to disprove what has been said—you should not complain if we allow you to do that.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What do you say about the close season?—A. The present close season is correct, for this reason: if you stop the boats from going out at 6 o'clock on Sunday, it will be impracticable to carry it out. As soon as it gets dark all hands will go out into the river, especially the single men—over and above all that, we want a supply of fish for Monday. Generally, there are only thirty days fishing, and many of these days we are short of fish anyway.

Q. But, if nine-tenths of the population think the Sabbath should be kept, it does not follow that one-tenth should make a profitable business out of it. However, you think the Sunday close time right now?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. But what do you think of a change—from 12 o'clock Saturday to 6 o'clock Monday morning?—A. Well, you see we would not be able to get away with the fish, and would have to work on Sunday to put fish up.

Q. Do you work at night?—A. Not if we can avoid it.

Q. Do you think it would be too long close time from 6 o'clock Saturday morning to 6 o'clock Monday morning?—A. Too long a close time? I think so. I would object to that for this reason: the run only lasts for six weeks, and there are only twelve days when there is any quantity of fish, and in a good year we are fully handed only in ten or twelve days, and the result would be we would not be able to get up enough fish to recoup us, and as soon as fish cease to run, then it does not pay to put them up.

Q. Would you make a division on Saturday—say 9 o'clock?—A. No, I think not—for to be able to do a day's fishing we must start early in the morning—if an unlimited number of nets all right, but we cannot get them.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Why not start at daylight Monday morning?—A. We want fish to work at on Monday—all people, trades people and any with interest in British Columbia, with the exception of Missionaries, but back the cannerymen up in that respect.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. We have too many fishermen who don't agree with you.—A. Such as they were—new-timers and come from Scotland and have been fishing here only a few years. These men may change their mind in a few years, especially if they have any money in business.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Proprietors of canneries are generally very well off and can go to church if they like, while fishermen cannot—as his bread and butter depends upon it.—A. Well, no canneryman will object to a man going to church—he is not working in the afternoon—you see there is a close time from 6 o'clock on Saturday morning up to 6 o'clock on Sunday afternoon, and surely that is a long time. But there is a bad effect in the way you ask questions.

Q. What about the annual close season?—A. Of course, I believe in that, because there is no fish to be had.

Q. Very generous! Can you account for larger runs than usual the last few years? Do you give credit to the season or to any artificial aid at all?—A. I give the credit to the season—it is a matter of chance more than anything else. I give credit, of course, to the hatchery, but since the hatchery was established it has been of very little use, owing to the remissness of the department in not supplying the inspector here with sufficient labour to look after it properly, and one of the reasons it was asked for 14 or 15 years ago, was to allow people who put their money in this industry to find out about the salmon in the river, and of course, when established it was established under the rules of the department, under a paid officer, but this officer has been left without knowing what he was to do—they did not allow him to employ hands until it was too late in the season. He had no opportunity to get spawn off the healthy fish.

Q. There is no season in which the hatchery was not filled to over-flowing with eggs of fish. The reports from various officers are that it was filled too full with eggs?—
A. Yes, I believe that, but filled from fish not in the best condition.

Q. Oh, I cannot say that—cannery men themselves say they want eggs from the sockeye?—Yes, but they don't go to get them in time.

Q. But I suppose you know you cannot get eggs before they are ripe? A. I think they could have got them earlier.

Q. You believe the hatcheries are good though?—A. Yes, if properly conducted, and if sufficient appropriation is made to look after them.

Q. Big salaries?—A. Yes, the men were paid very small salaries and everything was done in a niggardly way, and the result has been very unsatisfactory.

Q. The object when this hatchery was originally started was to breed the quinnat salmon, but cannery men said "no, they are not numerous enough—we want the sockeye," and the government took every means to get the sockeye; but from evidence brought up at this commission, it seems that if "quinnat" were bred the majority would be white and red and thrown away as useless. Now your first run of sockeye is in July?—A. Yes.

Q. Well, we have been collecting eggs for a number of years and we never get them until the end of September or October?—A. This is the run of fish that I would want to take the spawn from, but you take the tail end of the run, and all know that the healthiest and most robust are the first that go up.

Q. But you have to wait until they are ready to spawn?—A. Well, we know this the inspector complained very much—the late Tom Mowat—matters were always delayed too long—and two lines from the department would have done it.

Q. Oh well, you know if all complaints were gone into we could not think of attending to them. Now, have you anything more to say?—A. No; I think not.

Q. We are much obliged to you for your evidence?—A. You are welcome. By the way, a friend of mine, Mr. Laidlaw, asked me to say that he was not very well, and he would like to put in a statement.

MR. WILMOT.—Oh yes; let him put it in—we will put it on record.

MR. BIRRELL.—Very well, thank you.

J. C. ARMSTRONG, a British Canadian, a resident of New Westminster, and living in British Columbia since 1858, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, sir?—A. I merely wish to remark about the spawning grounds. I have been up and down the river—my impression is, if up at the Harrison River, at one place, the Government would employ an Indian or whiteman a month at certain seasons to let little salmon out, it would increase salmon more than the hatchery, at a very small expense. I have been there myself and I have seen the little salmon in the two little creeks where they go out, and when the water recedes they get dammed up, and the salmon remain there in millions, because they cannot get out.

Q. Then how hemmed in, sir?—A. This all gets flooded and the little salmon that are able to swim, rise, and the river drops quickly and they cannot get out.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. The water goes down and they cannot get out?—A. Yes; I have taken a stick and let many of them out.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. You have been up there and seen them, they were salmon?—A. Yes; I was with Mr. Mowat.

Q. What time of the year was it when you saw them there?—A. Along about the first of May or June.

Q. What size would they be?—A. Well, some could run around, but others hardly had the egg absorbed.

Q. Some you say only an inch and a half long and some with the sack on yet?

A. Yes.

Q. Were these naturally-bred fish or deposited?—A. Yes, naturally-bred fish. If you will dig down you will find the spawn there now the water comes in and then dries up and the little salmon die. They were so plentiful that years ago the Indians used to get a stick and put it in and get the spawn and dry it for their Christmas pudding or something of that sort. Another thing—about the trout—I have seen the salmon as they came in to spawn followed by great numbers of those trout who go in to eat the spawn. The trout are the same as a pack of wolves after sheep.

Q. Well, one view is that Providence has provided things very well, and nature provided these spawning beds up there—but the most destructive animal to salmon and the young fish is man himself and not those creatures whom Providence has put there?

A. Well, I have seen as many salmon between Yale and Spencer's bridge as the canners put up in a whole year.

Q. What about salmon dying up the river?—A. Well, I don't know, I have come through a great many of them, probably acres of them.

A. Do you see live ones?—A. No.

Q. They were underneath—you seldom see the live ones, they would be underneath it is only the dead ones you see. Well, I am sure we are very glad to hear your report and if our officer here will take up the matter and report upon it, I hope it will be attended to. We thank you for your information.

THOMAS LADNER, of Ladner's Landing, a native of England, a resident of Ladner's Landing, in British Columbia, since 1858, a salmon cannery proprietor, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, Mr. Ladner, have you any statement to make or would you prefer being questioned?—A. I am quite willing to answer any questions you may ask.

Q. What about the offal?—A. Well, my views in regard to offal are that it does no injury to fish whatever.

Q. What has it to do with the human family—their comfort, or health?—A. Well, speaking personally, I live right in it, and I don't know that it has injured me much. I don't think that it injures anyone; it causes a little stench sometimes, which, if the dead fish went, it would be more use.

Q. You think it offensive?—A. Yes, in certain localities as regards smell; but it is not injurious to fish or the human family generally.

Q. Are you a believer in science, or have you seen the authorities put forward by the Department of Agriculture, Province of Ontario?—A. No: I have not.

Q. Well, here is a statement from an Ontario Government official who has analysed offal of fish, and says—

"From the consideration of the whole question, I am of opinion that the manufacture of the refuse into fertilizer is strongly to be recommended, because:

"1st. It will thus utilize a bye-product that otherwise is a total loss.

"2nd. It will prevent the waters from being contaminated.

"3rd. Its proper management must tend to a more healthful surrounding.

"4th. Its return to the soils of the farm will partly offset the waste of our cities by sewerage carried to the lakes and rivers.

"5th. If properly handled it will pay well.

"From the great importance of this question to the health of the community, the welfare of the fishing industry, and the progress of agriculture, I have endeavoured to reply at this length."

— (Victoria, B.C., *Colonist*, 20th Feb., 1892.)

MR. LADNER.—Who is the authority?

MR. WILMOT.—The authority is Professor C. C. James, Professor of Chemistry in the Chemical Laboratory of the Ontario Agricultural College, at Guelph, Ont., who has analysed offal of cod fish, dog-fish, cannery refuse from salmon and herring. Those are his conclusions.

A. They are right in some ways and in others wrong. As a fertilizer we don't want it here—then you must take into account the cost attached to it—what costs \$1 in Ontario costs \$10 here.

MR. WILMOT.—Then the Provincial Government proposes that a syndicate be formed for the utilization of the offal and waste in connection with the proposed fishing operations of the Crofters to be brought out here for settlement. I will read you an extract from the *Victoria Daily Times* of the 21st February. After explaining the leading details of the scheme, the article goes on to say:

"As it is understood, an English company is in course of organization with a capital of a million sterling, for the purpose of purchasing the fish from the boats of the Crofters as soon as caught, and transporting them through a cold storage system on steamers and cars to every important market on the continent. In addition to this it is understood that the company will be prepared to cure fish by a variety of processes, extract fish oils and manufacture fertilizers, &c., from the offal. So that all kinds of fish procurable will be utilized and there shall be no waste. The reader will at once perceive how these two branches of the scheme will work into each other, and the whole tend to the development of the deep-sea fisheries of the province, thus establishing a new industry, the possibilities of which are as boundless as 'our great sea farm.'"

MR. LADNER.—That is a good idea, I only hope that they will do it—they are quite welcome to all the offal on the Fraser River without buying it.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Would you deliver it to them?—A. Yes; we would deliver it to them.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Then you think it offensive?—A. Not universally an offensive thing—only once and awhile you smell it.

Q. Does it lodge?—A. Oh, a little—heads and tails.

Q. Is not that the largest portion?—A. No; I think the entrails the largest portion.

Q. It depends how much you cut off?—A. Yes.

Q. You think it not detrimental to fish—is any other substance detrimental to fish? Would saw-dust be injurious?—A. Yes; I think it would be injurious if it got in the gills, otherwise I don't think it would.

Q. Do you think from your knowledge, that saw-dust or any description of offal, if strewn on beds where eggs are laid by salmon would be injurious?—A. I suppose it would.

Q. How about the limitation of nets—what are your views? Under the present rule the cannery are entitled to twenty boats each and the fishermen in number to take up 150, while cannery 350.—A. Well, if you take it on the basis of my opinion, I would allow fishermen to buy all the licenses they wish, and I think cannery should have at least twenty-five nets each. Every British subject and resident of the country should be intitled to get one boat and cannery not less than twenty-five.

Q. Now, Mr. Ladner, I cannot help but refer to the figures, as in the case of Mr. Birrell; but do you advocate an unlimited number of cannery?—A. Yes; any person who wants to put up a cannery, let him do so.

Q. You are more liberal than many others?—A. Oh, I don't know, I don't advocate a monopoly of the cannery at all.

Q. Then you think cannery should have twenty-five licenses and fishermen have an unlimited number—one each?—A. I do.

Q. There are twenty-two canneries on the river?—A. Yes.

Q. Are others to be erected?—A. Possibly.

Q. At twenty-five boats each and twenty-two canneries it would bring a product of 15,000 cases for each cannery in excess of any one year you have fished this river?—

A. Well, I don't know how you make that out.

Q. Well, you see, if twenty-two canneries at twenty boats each are required to produce as many cases as have been produced?—A. On what authority do you place the boats at twenty? There would be outside boats would there not? Then the runs vary—you base your figures that they catch so many fish every day.

Q. No; I base my figures on an average of 15,000 cases, and that is the average of all the canneries except Mr. Ewen's?—A. No; I have put up more than that. I work according to the market. If it justifies me in packing 25,000 cases, I will do it.

Q. Then you think Mr. Birrell not correct?—A. I disagree with him in that respect.

Q. Then twenty-five boats would always, with fair runs of fish, supply your factory?—A. But I say they would not.

Q. What would you say that twenty-five boats would produce daily with an ordinary run of fish?—A. Well, when you speak "daily" you cannot form a basis of opinion on daily catches, because, some years there are large runs and some small.

Q. Well, take 1889 or 1890?—A. Well, say 1890. In the day you were here twenty-five boats would supply a cannery. That day was the only day I saw so many fish on the Fraser River.

Q. The fish came to meet me then. (Laughter)?—A. Yes, sir; but you cannot base an opinion on 25 boats, because you cannot take the run of a big year—there is only a few days in the year when the big run happens—some days they will be fifty to a hundred to a boat and even 300, and I have got 400 to the boat, but that is an exceptional thing. You cannot base an opinion on that—I am speaking of twelve years' experience now.

Q. Well, you say you would be satisfied with twenty-five boats?—A. No. I would not. I say I would be willing to work on a basis of twenty-five boats and obtain the balance of fish I require from outside boats, because twenty-five would not supply my cannery, either in a large or small year.

Q. How many boats did you run last year?—A. I think it was twenty and some outside boats.

Q. And your pack was 12,700 cases?—A. If that book shows it (referring to departmental report in Mr. Wilnot's hands), that is it.

Q. Then you think you could not keep your cannery running satisfactorily with under twenty-five boats?—A. Not with twenty-five boats—I take a basis of twenty-five, and what I require over and above that I get from outside boats—now one year I used thirty boats.

Q. Do you think you could overfish the river?—A. No, I don't think so.

Q. Would a thousand boats affect it, or 10,000?—A. Well, in reason they would, but our fishing is done in tidal water almost entirely. I saw a case in point where they brought in an average of 150 fish to a boat, and next morning they don't bring ten fish to the boat, and that was the whole length of the river, and that satisfied me that fish come in and stay in one day—they get beyond all chance of being caught. Fish have plenty of chance to get up river.

Q. What is your idea as to freezers and market-men?—A. Well, my idea is they have an over-supply of boats, because they use them during the sockeye run. In the spring run and fall run they require boats, of course, but during the sockeye run they don't use the number of boats they get.

Q. But if a freezing establishment is put up with the view to employing capital and men to work it and can put up an equivalent to 15,000 cases, should not the industry be encouraged?—A. Certainly.

Q. Don't you think they would be equally beneficial?—A. No; canneries employ more labour, and thus are more beneficial.

Q. But canneries employ Indians and Chinamen?—A. Oh, I differ; I employ 20 whitemen in my cannery; canneries differ.

Q. But in putting up an equivalent to 15,000 cases of canned salmon the amount of labour would not be so great as the amount of labour required in canneries?—A. No, of course not.

Q. But the whole fish would be taken; none would be thrown away?—A. Well, it might not be thrown away here, but it would be thrown away somewhere else. I don't know whether they gut them or not, but this must be thrown away somewhere.

Q. What about the heads and shoulders and tails?—A. Oh, well, we don't throw away as much as all as we are represented to do.

Q. What is the average weight of the fish you take?—A. About 7 or 8 pounds.

Q. These were perhaps a little larger than usual when I was there?—A. Oh, about an average; in a good run they are smaller. That run when you were here was exceptionally good, and only lasted for one day.

Q. How many cans do you make to a fish?—A. Between 4 or 5 cans.

Q. Then fish weighing 8 pounds will give you 5 cans and 3 pounds offal?—A. Yes.

Q. You have read the statement of an individual in a public document, have you, that an 8 pound fish would make 5 cans and 3 pounds thrown away as offal?—A. Well, I will tell you, Mr. Wilmot, that I was so disgusted when I saw that cut in the report that I did not read it. That is the honest truth. I was so disgusted with that cut I wouldn't read it.

Q. But the actual figures are correct?—A. Well, according to that cut there was more than half the fish thrown away.

Q. You have good eyes, have you not?—A. Yes; very good.

MR. WILMOT.—(Showing cut in report, Department of Fisheries, 1890, p. 66). Does that cut show more than half the fish thrown away?—A. Yes, it does, provided you take the entrails out. The cuts should be shown nearer the head and tail.

Q. But the facts are that three pounds of offal are taken from an eight pound fish?

A. Oh, well, the facts are just as I state them.

Q. Then you contend the canneries should have twenty-five licenses—that every man should have one, and that as many canneries as like to should go in the business?—A. Yes; and as regards freezers—I think they should have enough to conduct the business, but I don't think freezers should have licenses to traffic in.

Q. Do you think canners should have licenses to traffic in?—A. No.

Q. Is it ever done?—A. I never heard of it being done.

Q. What is the custom of canners employing outside fishermen?—A. Pay them so much each for their fish.

Q. Is it the habit of canners to do somewhat similar to what freezers do, namely, apply for ten boats and then when they cannot use them sell them to others?—A. The nets should not be used as nets for freezers when issued to canners—it is proper they should be used for the purpose for which issued.

Q. And the same should apply to canners?—A. Of course.

Q. Do you think a settler or farmer should fish at a small fee for his own use?—A. Yes; or what is more, if he chooses to fish he has just as much right.

Q. But the fee is different?—A. Oh, well, in that case, yes.

Q. Well, these things I have put to you are just the very laws as they stand on the Statute Book?—A. But I want twenty-five licenses and unlimited licenses to outsiders.

Q. Would you give them in the same way to Indians?—A. No; I would not.

Q. Why?—A. Because I don't think them capable.

Q. Do not canneries employ great numbers of Indians?—A. Yes.

Q. Are they not capable of doing their work?—A. They are capable in a way; but it does not make much difference—they should be allowed every privilege possible. We claim in British Columbia the Indians are self-supporting, but they should not have same privileges as whitemen.

Q. What about the close season?—A. I think the close season as at present is correct.

Q. That is what you practised last year?—A. Yes.

Q. What about an annual close season?—A. I think there should be an annual close season.

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Q. What time would you say for that? A. From 1st March to 25th August as open time—nets not less than 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Q. And the close period from? A. And from 25th August to 25th September nets should not be less than 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches—we have then spring salmon running in the fall.

Q. Do you can them?—A. Yes; sometimes.

Q. Are some white and red?—A. Yes.

Q. What do you do with them?—A. Give them to Indians.

Q. Are none thrown away?—A. I never saw any.

Q. From 25th September what then?—A. From 25th September to 1st November, nets should be of not less than 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch mesh. My reasons for this is that in early spring we catch the spring salmon and of course that requires large mesh and we don't require small meshes nets until along in July. Well, I put it 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ because you can use as much larger as you like, but you must not use smaller.

Q. Five and three-quarters is the established mesh—from 1st November, what do you do then?—A. Well, we don't fish—not after that.

Q. And you would have a close season but no fish?—A. Oh, there are fish, but we don't catch them.

Q. Then you are willing to give a close season for fish when you cannot get or use them?—A. Well, we give two days throughout the fishing season now.

Q. Can you assign any cause for the good runs in the last few years?—A. I think the hatchery is a decided success.

Q. And is it your view on behalf of the fisheries of the country, there should be additional ones built?—A. It is, I think there should be one on the head waters of the Fraser and on the head waters of the Thompson.

Q. What fish would you breed?—A. The sockeye—I would advocate big salmon, only that you are just as liable to hatch white ones as red ones. It is very hard to tell them when you take them out of the water—you can tell them though experienced fishermen can tell them.

Q. Would they prevail at any season except when they are spawning?—A. Well, I don't know, perhaps so.

Q. Where is the fishing carried on principally in the river?—A. From the mouth of the river to Stave River.

Q. Where is the mouth of the river?—A. From Garry Bush to the opposite Point I consider that the mouth of the river proper, but not for fishing—the principal fishing is carried on out on the sand heads and from New Westminster down.

Q. What would be the proportion of boats that would be fishing from Garry Point outwards?—A. It is pretty hard to say—I don't think half of them. I have never taken it into consideration.

Q. Therefore, there is really not a greater but equal proportion of fishing carried on outside of the mouth of the river?—A. Yes, I think so.

Q. And do you think any interference with fishing outside the mouth proper would not be countenanced by cannery or anyone else?—A. I don't think they would countenance it, because little harm can be done. They very often catch more fish above Westminster than we do at the mouth of the river. All the nets you could put at the mouth of the river would not stop fish going up.

Q. Then you think the present limit for fishing on the Fraser River is correct?—A. Tidal waters up to Sumas.

Q. No, I may state the Dominion Government has agreed to establishing the boundary at Pitt River bridge and at Hammond on the main river, for commercial fishing?

A. I don't know anything about the Pitt, but I don't see why fishing should be stopped at Hammond—they fish at the mouth of the Stave River.

Q. For commercial purposes?—A. Yes, they bring them down to the canneries.

Q. The idea is to allow fish that have passed the gauntlet of your nets to go free up to the spawning beds, (showing diagram of proposed limits for fishing on Fraser River, report, Department of Fisheries, 1890, p. 77.) now, you go generally to the mouth of the river—you would not seriously object to the lines laid off there?—A. Yes, I would not mind as regards Pitt River, but I think fishing should be allowed up to the Stave

River. The limit should not be lower than Stave River. I think the present limits are all that is required—they have been the limits for years and there is no reason for changing it.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. What do you consider the present limits?—A. Up to Sumas.

Mr. WILMOT.—I don't think so.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Why would it not do to make the weekly close season from 12 o'clock Saturday to 12 o'clock Sunday night?—A. Well, there is a great number of reasons—the principal is if the close time is 12 o'clock at night we would not get one-third of our boats out fishing and the consequence would be we would lose all day Saturday, all day Sunday and all day Monday—three days each out of five weeks.

Q. Well 12 o'clock Saturday to 6 o'clock Sunday?—A. No; that would not do—we would have to work on Sunday and that would cost us double—over-time is double time. If that is to be it would be just as well that all consent for people who will not work on Sunday not to work.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. If you commenced fishing on Sunday at 12 o'clock midnight, could not fishermen be enabled to get fish for next morning?—A. No; they could not catch sufficient quantities—we would not get one-third of the boats to work.

Q. Then Sunday close time amounts to nothing?—A. Oh, no; Sunday closes—it closes equally in the majority of people's opinions here.

Q. But if you break Sunday at all, is it not as bad to work a part as all of it?—A. That is a matter of opinion. Now, we have only a few weeks in the year, and I consider it a greater sin when these things are given us if we don't take care of them.

Q. We have in evidence that some fishermen will not work on Sundays?—A. Well, perhaps they are christians like Mr. Wilmot, and others are christians like me. (laughter). I think it would be a great injustice to make the Sunday law any different—all persons can do as they like—some persons' conscientious scruples should not rule the others.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. But you say you could not get all the boats out if they went at 12 o'clock Sunday night?—A. Because they will not be over half a shift—they say so sometimes in the day time—we could not get our men to go out fishing—some might go but some would not.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Have you anything further to say?—A. Yes; when your Commission is sitting in Victoria, I would like you to call upon Mr. Smith, who can give you very good information on spawning grounds and the way the Indians are taking the young fish—they take them out, he says, in waggon loads. He could give you very good information.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes; we will endeavour to get him when we go there.

Mr. D. H. PORT, who had previously given evidence, presented himself before the Commission and stated his desire to make a few explanations in view of statements made by different witnesses. He had not thrown large quantities of fish away, but may have thrown away forty or fifty, but that would be all. He also had sold some fish to the canneries and considered the fairest limitation would be in the close time and not in the limitation of boats. He had not bartered licenses or sold them, but had worked them on shares—the fishing materials being supplied by him and arrangements made with the fishermen.

The Commission adjourned at 6 p.m., to meet at the same place at 10 a.m., on the 23rd February, 1892.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., 23rd February, 1892.

The Commission met in the Court-house at 10 a.m.

Present:—Mr. S. Wilmot, presiding; Sheriff Armstrong, Mr. C. F. Winter, secretary.

At the request of Mr. P. Birrell, and upon permission of the Chair, the secretary read over a portion of his notes of evidence given by Mr. Birrell the day previous, and about which that gentleman was in doubt. Mr. Birrell expressed his satisfaction with the record.

ALEXANDER EWEN, of New Westminster, a native of Scotland, twenty-eight years resident in British Columbia, a salmon canner and proprietor, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Will it be as well to commence by asking questions, or will you give a statement?—A. Oh, just as well to ask questions.

Q. Well, the first matter of importance is the offal question. Will you state concisely your views as to what you think on this matter—what are your views?—A. My view on the subject is that offal does no injury to salmon—it has no injurious effect upon them.

Q. Not injurious to salmon?—A. No; nor to fish life of any kind. It has been a question that has raised a great deal of agitation here, but on the whole Pacific coast it has always been put in the rivers and waters—on the Columbia River, on which there is a great deal more fish put up than here, and on the Skeena, and I cannot see any effect during the twenty-eight years I have been fishing here. The salmon are as plentiful now as they ever have been. I think the first year I was in the country salmon were scarcer than ever I have seen them since. Five or six years after that we had one summer when they were very scarce.

Q. Then you think it is not injurious to salmon or fish life of any kind?—A. No; that is what I think.

Q. What do you think as to health, or looking at it from a sanitary point of view?

A. Well, I have seen no effect that it has had, and I have been working at it myself and sometimes employed a good many men, and there is very little sickness that I have seen around any of the fishing establishments.

Q. Then you don't think it injurious, from a sanitary point of view, to anyone?—A. To no one working around the canneries—I have used the water and everyone around has also done so—white men, Indians, and Chinamen, and as far as I know it has never been filtered around my place.

Q. It is filtered in some places?—A. I don't know.

Q. Is it usual to take it right out of the river, or do you boil it?—A. When making tea it is usual to boil it, but not for drinking.

Q. Do they drink water there?—A. Yes; we are often forced to drink it, of course.

Q. But as a usual custom is water used for drinking?—A. Yes; as a general custom it is used the same as in the city for all culinary and other purposes.

Q. Drawn directly out of the river at the canneries?—A. Yes; at the canneries.

Q. So you are under the impression that it is not injurious to fish, man, or beast?

—A. Well, I am under the impression that it is not so,—there are waters in stagnant sloughs that are not fit to drink, but there is such rank vegetation there.

Q. This water in the sloughs—is its condition brought about by offal?—A. No offal can get there—it is flat land—offal does not affect it there. It is a great trouble on flat land for farmers have to go to the river to get good water.

Q. Is the water saline up at your cannery?—A. No; it is always fresh water.

Q. Now, as you are a practical man here and of large experience, have you ever made any attempt to dispose of the offal as the law requires?—A. No.

Q. Were you aware all this time that you were open to heavy penalties?—A. No, I never thought about it—there is no use of anticipating anything bad—it was never put in force. Of course if it had been put in force I would have had to do the next best thing.

Q. You never looked forward to having it done?—A. No; I never bothered about it.

Q. Have you in connection with other canners lately thought it advisable to put offal out in the channel of the river?—A. Well I think it is put in the channel in most cases. The canners will always do anything that will satisfy the people as far as we can comply with it, but at the same time I don't think it would be any material benefit.

Q. Are canneries erected in the channel of the river?—A. Well, they are not in the centre of the river, but they deposit offal in deep water and in a current as deep as in the channel, unless you go to pick out some deep places in the channel.

Q. Is the channel sometimes so strong as to require considerable steam power in a ship or tug so as to stem it?—A. No; the average current is about four miles an hour. It may be more at low water and according to the strength of the tide—it may be on the sand heads as much as seven and eight miles an hour.

Q. Then there is considerable current in the middle of the river—is the current similar where the canneries are built?—A. Yes; the same current from four to six miles an hour.

Q. Is it a fact or not that some canneries are built so that they almost touch the banks of the river?—A. Well, they are all built in that way—some may be built in not so much current.

Q. But all are more or less built so that a portion is over the water on piers—part on the land?—A. Yes, the building; but they are all built so that we clean the fish all over the water, and in a great many places the banks of the river are almost perpendicular—you are right in deep water at once.

Q. You know that the law was, offal shall be disposed of otherwise than by putting it in the river—what suggestion could you make as to its disposal?—A. Well, I don't know any way it could be done.

Q. Is it cast down in such immense quantities?—A. Yes, the only way I think it could be done, would be to put it in scows and take it right out to the middle of the Gulf, but that would be an impossibility, because the expense would be great and one-half the time it would have to be put right on the fishing grounds, especially when the sea was running, and powerful boats would be needed to take it out.

Q. Would that be beyond the lighthouse?—A. Oh, yes; five or six miles below the lighthouse.

Q. Is fishing carried on out beyond the lighthouse?—A. Yes.

Q. They get along very well with small boats there?—A. Yes.

Q. Then a steamer could carry it out?—A. Yes, but at great expense, and it would be a matter of consideration for me whether I would do without catching salmon at all.

Q. Do not some canners send offal to the oil factory at a distance?—A. Yes, some do—I have smelt it (laughter)—still I don't think it any benefit. They may extract some oil from it, but this offal again goes into the river.

Q. Is the oil establishment still running?—A. No, it can only run for two or three weeks.

Q. But it ran last year?—A. Yes, and I think the year before.

Q. Do you know what they do with the oil they make?—A. No, I expect it is exported from the country—there is dog-fish oil—that is exported.

Q. Do they make dog-fish oil there?—A. No.

Q. It has been running two or three years?—A. Yes, but not running to any extent.

Q. If the establishment was larger they could handle more offal?—A. Yes, but that would be no benefit, their offal is still going into the river—(i.e. the offal from the oil factory).

Q. Then you think anything extracted from the offal would not take away any of the injurious effects?—A. No, I don't think it would—they only take a portion of the

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oil from it, they don't do it all and a great deal of money has been spent in British Columbia in trying to make this oil business a success and they have brought men from New York, but it has failed.

Q. A good deal of English capital has been invested in canneries here, has it not?—A. Yes, I believe so.

Q. Do you not know it to be so?—A. Well, there is a good deal of this money in the business, but many people here still retain their money in it, too.

Q. Do you not think that if the law was enforced these capitalists who have invested money in the cannery would not go on with the oil factory and prevent the offal from going into the river?—A. Well, I don't know that.

Q. But would these people not carry out the law and extract oil?—A. Well, I don't know anything about it—my opinion is, that if I was in that position I would stop work.

Q. Do you mean to say that the canneries would stop if offal was prevented from going into the river?—A. Yes, as far as I am concerned. Give me the fish for nothing and make me comply with the law and I would not touch it.

Q. Have you made calculations on that?—A. Well, I have made calculations, and I know what the cost of the steamer would be to carry the offal to the factory, and I know it would be greater than the cost of our fish—then the other way, that is putting it into the Gulf,—the only means that I can think of, and I know if that was done in a reasonable way we would go into it, but no matter how we did it we would find it a greater nuisance than that complained of.

Q. Yet the cannery are willing to carry offal out in scows to the channel of the river?—A. I don't know anything about that.

Q. Do you belong to the Cannery Association?—A. No, I don't—in fact there is no association.

Q. Do they not have meetings and make rules, &c.?—A. Well, there was an association a few years ago, but it is broken up.

Q. Before they went to Ottawa?—A. Yes; I think so—I am not particular in remembering dates.

Q. Do you know the cause for breaking up the association?—A. Well, I don't want to say—I don't think it would do any good to tell you—people disagree, you know.

Q. Do you know on what they disagreed?—A. Well, greatly on this question of licenses.

Q. Were some wanting more licenses than others?—A. Well, those are questions it is useless to ask, for I speak only for myself.

Q. Then your opinion is it would be injurious to the canneries to be compelled, as the law directs, to consume offal otherwise than by putting it in the river?—A. Well, I consider it would be unnecessary expense, and I cannot suggest any way that would lessen the expense to do this and which is not necessary.

Q. But suppose a higher authority said it was necessary, what then?—A. Well, I would have to do it or stop working.

Q. And you think if that was the case, it would be very injurious to you?—A. Not to me wholly, but to the industry.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. But you know what is the law if you throw offal in the river, and the Government as a government have no power to change that law?—A. I don't know if they have power or not.

Q. No; they have not. An Act of Parliament cannot be changed except by another Act which supersedes it. Now, you stand, as cannerymen, in this way—anyone can go before a magistrate and complain of you throwing that offal in the river, and you could be fined up to \$100 for every day and every time you do it. Now, would it not be better to do something to get out of that position?—A. Well, we have been trying to do all we could.

Q. Well, but you have done nothing, but a few cannerymen have started an oil factory?—A. Well, but it is not a success and then most of their offal goes again into the river.

Q. Are you aware they have tons of it there and have not thrown any of it into the river?—A. I am aware tons of it have gone into the river.

Q. But you stand in that position still and liable to be fined \$100 every day and every time you throw it in?—A. Well, if you put it at \$100 a day, in a good run it would be the cheapest way we could get out of it.

Q. But it would be \$100 every time you put it in?—A. Oh, well, I might make another suggestion—that if the Government put that in, force it might be the best thing for the country. I rather think if any people are doing evil, it is within the province of the people to stop it. If it is wrong, they are the governing authority. I am aware of the position we are in.

Q. And some day some one will come forward and lay complaint?—A. I know it.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. You say there were tons of offal went in the river from the oil factory. Can you tell how much?—A. Two tons or over.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Do you think it as injurious as the offal of fish, or worse?—A. Well, I would consider it was more so. They take the oil away from it, and the oil, you know, is pretty good food. Lots of people live a good deal on it—the water goes down smoother (jokingly).

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Now, about 200 tons of offal are thrown away from each establishment on an average. Do you know how many establishments sent offal down to this factory?—A. No; I have heard two, but I cannot give definite information. You ask Laidlaw or Wadham, and they will tell you.

Q. You think it a hardship that the Government should insist upon offal not being thrown into the water? I think you said no other countries interfered with this?—A. I don't know of other countries.

Q. I will show you what other countries do : In the State of Washington there is a penalty of from \$50 to \$250 exacted from persons throwing deleterious substances in streams?—A. Well, that is observed something like it is in British Columbia.

Q. Then in the State of Oregon there is a penalty of from \$100 to \$500 for persons putting in deleterious substances?—A. But I beg your pardon—they all allow offal to go into the river, and don't consider it one of the nuisances. That is their reading of the law.

Q. The law applies throughout all the Dominion that offal shall not be thrown into the water, nor upon the Atlantic shores where fishing is carried on, and fishermen have applied for that because, they say, where offal is thrown in, fish gradually disappear. I merely mention that to show that the Fraser River is not alone where a law regarding offal is in force. In England, and in Sweden and Norway, it is not allowed?—A. I fished for over twenty years in England and Scotland and there was no such law to my knowledge.

Q. But probably since you came away the waters became defiled and depleted, and it became necessary to make this law?—A. As a rule, there is not the amount of offal thrown into rivers there as here, and it is utilized in various ways; but I have seen great quantities thrown outside of harbours into the water.

Q. But you don't seem willing to do even that here?—A. Well, but when it cannot be carried away, it is put into the harbour. This happens two or three days during the herring fishery.

Q. Are you aware at Burrard Inlet there was a factory there and the quantity of offal, &c., thrown in has driven herring away?—A. Well, herring have gone away, as they have in several places, but there is a city there now and other things. The herring came into tidal water to spawn upon rocks, old logs, &c., but the saw-mills and sewerage have destroyed vegetation, &c.,—the saw-dust from wood when it lodges upon the mud changes it—it gets black as coal tar and very offensive, and it was these causes that stopped the herring—they had nothing to spawn upon.

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Q. Was saw-dust so plentiful as to cover the body of the harbour?—A. Well, it became very plentiful, and there is a city there now. The herring have disappeared from many places on this coast.

Q. I suppose you know there are many places in the Dominion where salmon have wholly left?—A. I don't know about other parts of the Dominion.

Q. But if you were told it was so and they left from such causes, would you not think herring disappeared from similar causes?—A. Well, fish disappear as civilization comes in.

Q. Do you not want civilization to come because the salmon will disappear?—A. Oh, no; but I want people to have fish while they can—they are as plentiful as ever they have been.

Q. And you think offal not injurious to fish life, or in any way?—A. Well, not to fish life—I am not a scientist.

Q. You heard articles read yesterday about these matters?—A. Yes, I heard something, but I did not get a full knowledge of it.

Q. Then you defer to practical men and scientists and medical men who say it would tend to a better surrounding if not put into the water, and they then say it will pay well, &c.?—A. Well, let them try it—practical experience is often different to theory.

Q. Then you think the remarks falling from these men are not correct?—A. No, I would not say that, but I do not think they are correct as regards here—it has not yet been shown that it is injurious here—the fish are as plentiful as ever they have been.

Q. But fish were scarce when you came here first?—A. They were at first, yes.

Q. You had smaller appliances then?—A. No, just the same—there were just six or eight nets, or ten then.

Q. Now there are about 600?—A. Yes, but we were catching then ten and twenty salmon in a day.

Q. But how many now?—A. Well, in some off years that is the average we catch now.

Q. What is the cause of their being more plentiful now?—A. But I don't say they are more plentiful—as plentiful as ever, not more plentiful.

Q. What do you think of the effect of artificial breeding here?—A. Well, I have not seen anything from it that has shown anything to give an opinion upon—it is altogether in an experimental stage yet. The artificial breeding of salmon I don't think has been anything of a success—anything as I have heard or read about.

Q. You think it no success anywhere?—A. Well, I have never heard of it. I have seen artificial breeding about fifty years ago. I have been round the coasts of Scotland marking the smolt when they were leaving. The first year I was here I saw many smolts but have not seen them since. They can be seen very well; the water is crowded and you can see them. We were fishing with same mesh as used in Italian seine for catching oulachs, and in catching these we got a number of smolts or young salmon—there was not a great number. Then I take a great interest in salmon—I have been catching salmon for the last fifty years.

Q. Do you think saw-dust injurious to rivers?—A. I don't think saw-dust injurious to salmon. When they come in here they are forcing their way through anything—they get beyond us in twenty-four hours.

At 11.35 a.m. the Court room, being required by His Honour Judge Boles for the trial of a pending case, the chairman declared the Commission adjourned until 1 o'clock p.m., Mr. A. Ewen to return at that hour for further examination.

Afternoon Session.

WESTMINSTER, 23rd February, 1892.

The Commission reassembled in the jury room, Court-house, at 1 p.m. Present: Mr. S. Wilmot, in the Chair; Sheriff Armstrong and Secretary Winter. The examination of Mr. A. Ewen was continued.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. We got as far as the offal question, I think?—A. I have one bit of correction of my remarks to make. There is a Canners' Association in existence yet. It is not confined to cannerymen, but, in common, most prominent men in the province belong to it. It is not a Canners' Association alone, but takes in salt fish and others as well. Its headquarters are in Victoria. There are a number of cannerymen in it, and others besides.

Q. Cannerymen and fishermen, is that it?—A. Yes, anybody. It is open for you to be a member, if you like. The fee is \$50.

Q. Will you advance the fee? I might get information from it more than here? (laughter)—A. Oh, well, if you are disposed to put your money in it, you would see. And then there is the question of my having only one cannery—the question was put to me several times. I have two, but it never came into my head; but I don't look upon it as more than one.

Q. Both fully equipped and ready for work?—A. Yes; ready for work; but I have never operated in the new one. I could not get fish enough to do anything with it. I got the licenses, but used the boats for the one establishment. I could not get either fish or men to work it.

Q. What is the capacity of your factory?—A. Oh, I don't know. In the one that I worked I put up over 2,000 cases a day.

Q. The annual output has been equal to that?—A. This last three or four years it has been about 25,000 or 30,000 cases—taking the past three or four years.

Q. What is the ordinary average pack—yours is the largest by far, is it not?—A. No; I don't know that it is much larger than others.

Q. You do more business than others?—A. I have been doing more than others.

Q. What is the average pack of theirs, have you any idea?—A. Well, the statements are different every year in the Dominion blue-books, and the statements are made here from the Board of Trade.

Q. What capacity should a cannery be to allow it to obtain the usual supply of licenses?—A. I don't know!

Q. Should a cannery be established with a capacity of using ten boats, but yet get twenty?—A. Well, that is a question that no person can calculate upon—it depends upon what fish you get. You may begin, and wish to put up forty or fifty cases a day, and get boats for it, but after the run begins, you may have to take off half of the boats and then this large catch is only for a few days—ten days or two weeks as a rule—that you can get more fish than you can cure. The rest of the time you don't get [such a supply; perhaps not near as many as you want.

Q. What do you think the number of boats should be for a cannery—what the outside limit?—A. Well, I should like to have at least forty. Last year I got fish from over sixty.

Q. Then the outside limit should be forty?—A. Yes; I don't care what limit it is, as long as the limitation is on the whole river. It was placed, I believe, two years ago, when the department put the limit at twenty or twenty-five boats, and the \$20 license fee, but it was with the understanding that the river should be left open.

Q. Then the canneries were to be unlimited in licenses?—A. Not particularly the canners—we had reason for that on account of labour.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Limited to what?—A. To twenty-five—it was on account of labour, but outside of that we tried for the river to be unlimited.

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By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Then you as a body of cannery wished the river to be open without limit?—A. Yes; that was what we asked for; but then they raised the licenses, but still kept the limitation on.

Q. But the object now is to know as near as possible what is a fair division of licenses. You were willing to say then that twenty-five should be a fair proportion to the cannery and fishermen unlimited?—A. Yes; but I would be willing for that yet, and the reason we want that quantity is on account of the Indian labour. It is impossible to put up a large quantity of fish in that time, unless you have Indian labour.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Do you think each cannery should have the same number of licenses?—A. Well, if licenses were unlimited to outside parties, I see no necessity of one cannery having more than another—no real necessity; but if the river was limited it would be unfair to give them all the same number of licenses.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. But your view in a few words means this—you are of the impression that it would be best for cannery to be limited to a certain number?—A. No, I don't say it would be best—but it is making no material difference.

Q. But should cannery get licenses not exceeding twenty-five and outside fishermen get all they want?—A. Yes, I think it would do, but it would not be satisfactory if the same limitation was kept up.

Q. And would 25 boats be sufficient for cannery to run establishments with a pack of 15,000 cases?—A. No it would not.

Q. How many would it take to do it?—A. It would depend on the season. Between thirty and forty boats. They might not use all during the heavy run.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Could you give us an average?—A. It is impossible to give an average. The real reason that you want to have those boats of your own and get Indian fishermen as they bring their families around and you have Indian women and boys, and some of the men, not fishermen, to work in the canneries, and when this extra fishing comes on you can take off your own boats and get off to work in the cannery. There are not so many Chinamen as there were, and Indians, these last few years, are more pliable and will work in the cannery when they see there is a rush. Three or four years ago they would not do this, but now they are more pleased to work when they get more wages in the cannery, and they will work during that period when salmon is so plentiful. This is the real reason why we would like to have these licenses, or rather that I would.

Q. You found last year forty licenses necessary to run one cannery?—A. Yes; I run between sixty and seventy boats and they didn't get near supplied. There was more fish come than we expected. I took off a number of Indians and limited men who were fishing down for a day or two till we got over the run, it only happened one or two days somehow like that.

Q. And you think it necessary to have that number of boats every year?—A. Well, we would like to have that privilege. This year I had a lot of boats and gave them to persons who could not get a license—some took them on shares—that is the great trouble many of the best fishermen could not get a license.

Q. But you would like to get forty?—A. Yes; but out of that forty I don't fish myself more than fifteen or sixteen.

Q. The rest you let out?—A. Yes; I give them to good men.

Q. Do you get fish cheaper that way?—A. Well, it just depends—sometimes you get them cheaper.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Have you an idea of the gross number of boats fished on the river in 1890.
A.—No.

Q. The limit was 500—how far did it exceed that number?—A. I don't know. I never knew it exceeded that at all.

Q. Are you not aware it exceeded that number by forty or fifty?—A. Well, I don't know—I heard so—I believe there were some licenses came out after the others were taken up.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. You would be willing to do with these licenses if the river was thrown open to all *bonâ fide* fishermen to get licenses?—A. Yes ; and I think it an impossibility to over-fish the river under the present system as fished, as you are confined to gill-nets and limited to tidal waters.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What is worse than gill-nets, then?—A. I don't know of anything worse that could be applied in this river, for fish that enter the Fraser River are beyond the reach of the fishermen and protected after they enter the river, the water is cold and the fish swim fast and they go right past us, you may say the same day they are at the sand-heads they are at Yale, the difference of time, you can hardly distinguish it.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. You say under the limits they could not be decreased?—A. Well, under the regulations we can only bar one-third of the river.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Is that observed?—A. Well, yes it is, I think.

Q. It is something like the offal, perhaps?—A. Well, I don't know, you would want a steamboat, perhaps, to have it perfectly observed.

Q. Well, you say you cannot adhere to laws, or won't adhere?—A. Well, I maintain these laws are framed without consulting the peculiarities of the river. It is impossible to over-fish the river with the loose drift-net—the river is wider in one place than another, and your net is drifted at three and four and five miles an hour, and you get in places where you cannot use it.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Do you think the fishery in danger of being exhausted, if all fishermen get licenses?—A. No ; I don't think there is any danger.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Then how did the fishermen come to the conclusion about the limitation of 350 and 150?—A. Well, that limitation was asked for for a number of years, and I don't think I was in favour of it any more than now.

Q. It was at the instigation of the canners?—A. Well, I don't know as it was at their instigation altogether—reports were taken from the Board of Trade, and I think that it was the Board of Trade that sent these representatives—the Board of Trade of Victoria.

Q. Do they rule the fisheries of the Fraser River?—A. No ; but they may have a word to say—but there were representations made that were not wholly correct. It was correct in this way, they showed that the pack was much less than years before.

Q. Because of scarcity of salmon in the river?—A. They attributed it to that, but it was not so ; the canneries were running so low because the markets were so over-supplied there was no demand for them.

Q. But we don't want the markets, we are talking of fish?—A. Well, I tell you it was not scarcity of fish ; the people here have been suggesting things to the department, but this thing of over-fishing the river has been pressed upon the mind of the Government, and it is that which has hampered the industry here.

Q. But you ask for a limit of 500 boats, to be divided among cannery and outside fishermen; then twenty boats was the limit for cannery—now you want twenty-five or thirty—therefore fish must be getting scarcer?—A. Those are not facts.

Q. I merely mention this to show that there must be some cause now why you ask for twenty-five or forty?—A. I dispute the facts.

Q. But if you require twenty-five or forty nets now to do work which you did with twenty, there must be a scarcity of fish?—A. But this suggestion never came from this association; I don't know what private individuals have done, but I don't know as it has ever been stated that twenty boats were quite sufficient.

Q. Then you do not agree with the general opinions of the association?—A. In some I do, but in this I do not. They might have been satisfied with twenty licenses in these last few years, if the river was left unlimited.

Q. Well, it is just simply this, all they were entitled to was twenty licenses?—A. Last year was the first time it came down to twenty licenses; the year before I had thirty-eight or thirty-nine.

Q. You think it necessary to have a greater number of licenses than twenty to carry out your work?—A. Yes; because the industry is getting greater all the time, and more going into it. Fish are just as plentiful as ever they were, but more capital is going into the business every year.

Q. Do you think anyone should put up a cannery who likes?—A. Well, it is all right—there should be no restriction.

Q. Then factories should be unlimited in number, the outside fishermen should be unlimited in number—then what about the limit of licenses to cannery?—A. They should be unlimited—if they were I might not take ten or twenty licenses, but I want the privilege of doing it to get Indian labour around my cannery—the whole object is really to enable us to get the Indian labour.

Q. You consider the fishing should be thrown open to all—as many canneries as people like to build and all fishermen to get licenses?—A. Yes; it means virtually throwing the river open.

Q. Then you don't think too much fishing can hurt the river?—A. No; it has never done so yet, and I don't think if it is thrown open there would be more fishing done.

Q. No matter how much fishing is done you cannot injure the river?—A. Yes; there is nothing to show injury yet—it might be over done perhaps, but keeping in view the present modes of fishing and the limitation that we cannot go beyond the tidal waters, it is not at all likely, but when these limits are on you cannot over-fish it—you may get some years when it is easier getting supplied up the river, that it may be profitable to fish higher up and especially now when they are working the cold-storage system and shipping fish all over the world.

Q. Then you think that a wholesale throwing open of the river would not be injurious to the river?—A. No; under present laws it would not be. The fish in twenty-four hours are beyond our reach—the river is alive with them.

Q. Well, the next matter is, are the fish pretty much the same every year?—A. Some years they are larger and some smaller, but there is not much difference—some years when there is a heavy run they are smaller.

Q. What average—seven or eight pounds?—A. Thereabouts.

Q. Do you put more than one pound in a can?—A. As a rule—sometimes there is less—when you are canning you cannot weigh them all and the light ones come back to the cannery's loss—they would average about eighteen or nineteen ounces to the tin.

Q. How many cans do you get to the fish?—A. Well, it will run between four and five.

Q. So with an ordinary sized fish you can four or five cans and the rest is thrown away as offal—of an eight pound fish there would be four of meat and three of offal?—

A. Yes; sometimes you may get them larger or smaller—I don't know exactly the proportion—I have weighed them but I have not gone into the thing so close.

Q. Have you any idea of the quantity of offal going into the river in any one year?—A. No.

Q. Would you be astonished if I told you it was many million pounds weight?—A. No; but it has been very much exaggerated.

Q. How so?—A. Well, it has been exaggerated—how much blood is there in a fish? Then there is always more or less water inside them—well, all these things should be taken into consideration—it is a good deal of guess work with anyone.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Do you think there is half a pound of blood in a fish?—A. Yes; I should think so.

Q. Then that should be deducted from the offal?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Would you be astonished to hear that you had put 3,373,012 pounds of offal into the river in 1889?—A. I don't know.

Q. Well, how do you say the figures are exaggerated?—A. Well, take the quantities of fish, and I am sure it is exaggerated.

Q. Well, but take the fish caught—they made so many cans, and the balance would be offal, would it not?—A. Yes; but it is all guess work—you know the number of cases made, but you cannot tell how many fish you put into them.

Q. Well, but you say your fish average so and so and you make so many cans?—A. Well, in some cases you make more—some seasons you don't average eight fish to the case. The way to do is to bring it right through, one season with another.

Q. But when you state public prints are exaggerated you should be able to prove it?—A. Well, it is taken from report, not from observation.

Q. It is taken from your own reports?—A. Well, we don't get them.

Q. Don't you sell your cans by so many numbers?—A. By so many numbers, but that does not represent the whole work—you cannot get it unless you go down and see it.

Q. About saw-dust—you think it injurious to the river?—A. I don't think it injurious to salmon—the saw-dust between here and the mouth of the river—because salmon don't lie here—they are not in any pools—they are passing hundreds of miles beyond them.

Q. But, you must remember this Commission is not dealing solely with the Fraser River, but with all matters regarding the fisheries of British Columbia—now do you not think saw-dust injurious?—A. If it lodges on the spawning grounds, undoubtedly.

Q. How can you prevent it lodging on the spawning grounds?—A. Well, in British Columbia I don't think it could get on the spawning beds unless it ran up-hill. It is not proper to put it in streams where it can lodge upon spawning grounds, but I am not so rabid as to say that it should not be put into streams where it does not do injury.

Q. But it might be injurious in one stream and not in another?—A. Well, I think it would be injurious in all streams, because where there is saw-dust it hurts the spawning.

Q. What are your views as regards fishing with seines?—A. Well, fishing with seines is the only way that has been attempted to fish in salt water inlets and bays as yet—they could not work them in the Fraser River.

Q. But as compared for destructive qualities—the gill-net and seine?—A. I don't think either very destructive—you could not use a seine in the Fraser River. I expect what you want to get at is that seines take all the young fish that are unfit for food.

Q. Do you think they do?—A. No, I don't; but I never had much experience with them—I never saw any young fish.

Q. But if a seine is hauled around the coasts of creeks and rivers, is it more injurious than a floating net?—No; I think both equally the same. It is not injurious, it is only a mode of catching them; if fish have to be caught either is good—it is a question which is the cheapest way of catching them.

Q. Then if both are alike, all your gill-nets are seines?—A. No, they are not; you require smaller mesh for seines—it is for catching fish without gilling them. When our fish are coming plentifully they are striking the nets everywhere. If it was clear water in the river you could not catch them with gill-nets.

Q. Then it is muddy water that gives the opportunity of getting caught in gill-nets?—A. No; but it makes them cheaper in that way. We could not catch them with gill-nets if the river was clear on the shoals, &c., and the muddy water makes it unprofitable to work seines.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Do you think the canneries a benefit to the Indian population of the province?
—A. Well, I believe they are ; it is work the Indian naturally likes to work at and they get good wages and whole families work at it. If the Indians departed from working at that, I think there would be nothing for them but to go back to reservations and let the Government feed them. There are a great number of them, and if the Indians were not here we could not put up our work like we do.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Are Indians and Indian women employed exclusively?—A. No ; not one-half or one-tenth—the most are Indian boys, their ambition is to be fishermen. I find now the Indians are only too willing to get in the cannery and work there as long as there is work for them. We want to get everyone to work in the cannery during the run of fish as long as we can get fish, but if we cannot get fish we put them out to fish again.

Q. Suppose the Fraser River clear limpid water—would you catch more fish with a gill-net or seine?—A. Well, it would throw the gill-net fishing into night work, because you would get very few in daylight, and it would allow the salmon to congregate in shoals together and with seines you would get more fish at less expense. I believe in fishing with a seine in clear water where you can see it would be the best way, but in muddy water you cannot use it so profitably.

Q. Then a seine is a more destructive engine than a gill-net?—A. Well, you will find in British Columbia more seines than gill-nets ; they throw the seine out into the river, stretched out, and watch for fish going up. It is a question of economy which is best to do.

Q. What do you think of the close season?—A. Well, I think the present rule for the weekly close season is as good as can be made—from six o'clock Saturday morning to six o'clock Sunday night.

Q. Do you think it would be injurious to your interest to extend the time to twelve o'clock Sunday night?—A. Yes ; I would rather have it to six o'clock Monday morning than twelve o'clock Sunday night, but if you make it twelve o'clock Sunday night, make it begin at twelve o'clock Saturday noon.

Q. Well, I think your views are correct ; from the moral point of view what do you say?—A. Well, look at the great trouble you will have getting the boats out ; the people would have to be around in the evening if you made it twelve o'clock Sunday ; it would evade the carrying out of the law and be very disagreeable.

Q. I think your views very correct that fishing might commence on Monday morning?—A. The question is whether would the Sabbath observation be beneficial, and it is a question for the Government ; it is the first time that I have heard it advocated by the Government to take Sunday.

Q. Well, I think you will find statutory enactments that work shall not be done on Sunday—emanating from both the Provincial and Dominion Governments, if I am not mistaken?—A. Well, I don't know that.

Q. You think then the Sunday close time all right?—A. Yes.

Q. What do you think of an annual close season?—A. Well, an annual close season in British Columbia, and the Fraser River particularly, it would be very hard to keep—we have so many different kinds of salmon here.

Q. Do you have a close season now?—A. Yes.

Q. When?—A. When fish are done ; they make a close season for themselves. When the canneries commence they fish for a very short portion of the season, but the great difficulty is, we have five different kinds of salmon here and they don't all run at the same time. There are fish caught in the river that should not be caught.

Q. What are they?—Well, there is the early spring salmon, the sockeye, the hump-back, and everything else.

Q. You say the spring salmon should not be caught?—A. At certain seasons.

Q. What seasons?—A. Well, after they are down in condition and are not good food.

Q. When they have spawned?—A. No ; before they spawn.

Q. When would that be?—A. In the latter part of August and early part of September.

Q. Then they should be preserved in August and September?—A. Well, sometime about that.

Q. They are running the whole season through?—A. No; but you will get them after that, but not plentifully. At that time you will be catching the sockeyes, but they are not good.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. What time should you not catch the spring salmon?—A. Well, about the middle of September.

Q. For how long?—A. Until the following spring, April.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. What would you consider a proper close season for sockeye?—A. Well, they run until the middle of August.

Q. And until when should they not be caught?—A. Well, not until the first of next July again.

Q. The next most valuable fish is the coho, is it not?—A. Well, yes; it is the next best commercial fish.

Q. Should they have a close season?—A. All should have close seasons.

Q. What for cohoes?—A. Well, I cannot think of these things all at once—well, they come in along after the latter part of the spring salmon, about the 15th September, and they hold out longer than any run we have, except it be the spring salmon.

Q. Then, the close time for spring salmon would cover cohoes, too?—A. Well, you might make it for cohoes all the year, excepting two months, beginning the middle of September—September, October, and the first two weeks of November—this is the time you have them in good condition, but you cannot fish for one without catching the other.

Q. Well, but you could pitch them away, as you do with white salmon—A. Well, that is what is done with them all.

Q. Have you any objection to the present limits for fishing in the Fraser River. Do you agree to a stoppage of fishing from Garry Bush out?—A. No; it is from Garry Bush out that we have the greatest area of fishing ground.

Q. The best fishing ground?—A. Well, you have a larger field to work in there.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, suppose a mile from Garry Bush outwards was prevented from being fished, what effect would that have?—A. The fishing is not done altogether in the channel—the fishing is done nearly from Point Roberts to Point Grey, going outside as far as they can get fish to work with, as there is a larger area of ground.

Q. You think it injudicious to shorten the limits of the river?—A. Yes; I don't think the present limits interfere with anyone much.

Q. Then, the present limits are all right?—A. Yes, I think they are about right.

Q. The present limits extend up to Sumas. The recommendation now is that it be shortened down to Pitt River and Hammond, the present regulations say "tidal water," now this is with a view that it will prevent in the future more canneries being built up to the Sumas, where fish would be annihilated, and so the department says we will shorten up the distance down to Hammond and Pitt River.

Q. Now, Mr. Ewen, who, in your opinion, should get licenses. Should everybody get licenses, if British subjects?—A. Yes; let any man, even not a British subject, we have the same privilege with United States citizens, for fishermen can go down to the Columbia River and fish. (Voice from the audience.) No; it cannot be done.

Mr. EWEN (continuing.) If the limitation is kept on I should certainly say only British subjects should get licenses because when a limit is put on they work into parties hands who are not as deserving as others.

Q. Do you think the transfer of licenses correct, and is it right to barter them?
—A. Well, I don't know whether right or not—I have no objection—it perhaps would not be fair, but it would allow the fish to be caught in the country.

Q. Otherwise is it just that a man who comes to this country to settle cannot get a license should others barter them out to him?—A. No; that is not justice, but I maintain if the limit is taken off no harm would be done.

Q. Well, Mr. Ewen, we have had a long discussion with you—unless you have something else to say we are quite satisfied?—A. Well, have you been doing anything about the sea fisheries? There are a number of fishermen who are more acquainted with salt water fishing than with fresh water fishing on the Fraser River—it has not been touched upon. There has been a discrimination of licenses here in British Columbia that has not been fair.

Q. Do you think a man on the Fraser River should pay twenty dollars and a man on the Skeena or Naas pay only five dollars?—A. No; I don't think it fair.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Should fishermen with boat and net pay the same price as cannerymen?—A. Yes; and when this twenty dollar license fee was suggested, and I believe I was one of the principal ones for doing it, it was intended the fee should be the same.

Q. Do you think the license fee should be the same all round?—A. Yes; I think it should be the same—there is more competition here and less on the Skeena and other rivers. I think the canning industry should be hampered as little as possible; there has been a great deal of canned salmon put up for a number of years and the consumption is not equal to the supply, and it has been done for the purpose of forcing it on the world, but people are going away from eating canned goods rather than taking more of it, and I think it not wise to hamper the industry. Here we should not be too much cramped—we have Alaska and other places to compete with, and British Columbia would be shut out of the market altogether if you hamper us too much.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Would 500 boats catch more than 100?—A. Oh, yes; I suppose so.

Q. Now, if you gave unlimited fishing here to everybody would it not increase the catch?—A. Well, I don't think it would increase the catch nor increase the number of boats fishing on the river—that is my belief—but it would make it satisfactory to everyone employed in the industry. People would not take more licenses than they require, if free to all. I might not want ten licenses, if plenty outside, and certainly I would not put up a great quantity of salmon unless I could sell them.

Q. But if another Government allows the Alaska fishermen to bring their fisheries to an end as fast as possible, should we not husband ours here?—A. I don't know what it is in Alaska, but I know the Columbia River is similar to the Fraser River and salmon are as plentiful as ever they were.

Q. Yes; but the United States Government are instituting means whereby they shall not be fished as much as possible?

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. You say that if the fishing business here is hampered you will not be able to compete with the industries of other countries. How are we to know that unless you give us figures as to cost of putting up a case of fish, &c. It has been stated here that you can afford to put up a cannery for \$5,000, and by getting twenty licenses can make \$25,000—how are we to know if that is correct, or that you are hampered?—A. Canneries that are up here, already in existence, and under present regulations, cannot work up to their expenditure.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, how is it you build additional canneries every year?—A. Well, I built an additional cannery last year because I got cornered.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Yes; to get more licenses?—A. Well, I was under a bond for \$40,000, and these twenty licenses cost me \$16,000, which was money throw away for no use.

Q. But men say you made \$25,000?—A. Well, I knew I threw that away; it is impossible to tell you what you make or what you lose in the season.

Q. I want you to give an average; surely you can do that?—A. Well, not very well; in the past five or six years the canneries have made from 10 to 20 per cent upon their investments; they might have made 10 per cent; last year there is a great possibility there was 20 or 30 per cent loss.

Q. Well, we want to know what it costs in order to know if any incumbrances should be put on the canneries?—A. But incumbrances are put on as the ofal and the limitations that are put on.

By Mr. Wilnot:

Q. But this—the ofal—is not an incumbrance, because the law has never been put in force?—A. But we are afraid that it will be.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. You see, as the law stands at the present day, you are liable to a fine if any person lays complaint before a magistrate, and if you want us to recommend this matter to the Government we must get figures to know?—A. But if this expense is put on us we will have to shut the cannery; this ofal question is the most serious question put against us.

By Mr. Wilnot:

Q. But you have never had any trouble?—A. No; but we expect to.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. But we must have figures to show?—A. Well, let the Government put the law in force and let them see how it will act; then they will see if it will be beneficial to the country; I am not speaking personally, but for the province and the industry. I might speak the other way if I spoke personally, not only on ofal but everything else.

By Mr. Wilnot:

Q. Well, Mr. Ewen, have you anything else to lay before us?—A. No; I will give way to someone else.

ALBERT FADER, of Vancouver, a British Canadian, a resident of British Columbia for three years and nine months, and a fish dealer, was duly sworn.

Mr. FADER.—I represent now the British Columbia Fishing and Trading Company, limited.

By Mr. Wilnot:

Q. Have you anything special to lay before us?—A. Well, about the close season; I don't quite understand that the close season means outside of the Fraser River or not.

Q. It is applicable all over British Columbia?—A. Well, I think it would effect the salt water fishermen.

Q. They are fishing where?—A. Anywhere in salt water; I mean outside of rivers, on the coast; there are lots of salmon taken by hooks, and some by gill-nets, and it is for local trade and also for some trade shipments to the mountains; I think it would effect the trade generally.

Q. Well, sir, you think then that any close season would affect trade in relation to catching fish on the coast?—A. Yes; I do.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Do you mean weekly or annual close season?—A. The annual close season.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. You think it injurious to enforce the weekly close season?—A. I think the present law in that regard very good.

Q. In your capacity do you represent canners?—A. No, sir.

Q. Simply the ordinary fishermen on the coast?—A. Yes; we have fishermen from whom we buy and we have a steamer in the deep water fishery. We applied for licenses to go on this river last year but could not get them, and we think ourselves entitled to ten licenses as well as freezers to allow us to compete with them in eastern markets.

Q. At present you have no licenses?—A. No, sir; and our trade is hampered accordingly.

Q. What fish do you deal in?—A. All kinds, halibut and salmon principally.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Do you get many cod?—A. Yes, several; but there is not much demand for them just now.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, as regards this deep-sea fishery the license would not apply?—A. No; but I am speaking of salmon in salt water, and talking of seine fishing in rivers—in clear water—now, that is the only way you can catch fish in the rivers up the coast. The rivers there are just as clear as can be and salmon will not gill at all.

Q. Have you any information from other parts of the world?—A. Yes; I came from Nova Scotia—the Atlantic coast.

Q. Are you not aware they fish in these limpid waters with gill-nets?—A. Yes? but salmon is a leading fish; at the mouths of the rivers they play around for several days and will not get across over twenty feet—if they strike a net they sheer off from it. I have tried a trap the same as we use in the east and I have not caught a salmon in the trap.

Q. Do you know Bay des Chaleurs or Bay of Fundy?—A. Yes; I know the Bay of Fundy, but they have very swift tide there; the water is not very clear and runs rapidly.

Q. You think the Pacific water more clear than the Atlantic?—A. Well, I don't know as it is.

Q. But the salmon act differently?—A. Well, you know our fish in the east will come and stop for nothing, but here it is different—salmon will fly around in coves and creeks after the small herring; the water is very full of small bait and they will not mesh as they will in the east. I have tried it in all ways, and as I say brought out a trap-net, but we could not catch them at all.

Q. But the last witness says fish cannot see and run into anything?—A. That is in the Fraser River—that is right.

Q. But in Great Britain they catch salmon in gill-nets?—A. I know, and on the Atlantic we do the same.

Q. But here you must use a seine?—A. Yes; I have been up the coast pretty often and could name several rivers I have been into and in which it would be no use to set a gill-net at all, they would not mesh.

Q. Therefore you think that to prevent seining at the mouths of rivers would be injudicious to you and the people you deal with?—A. Yes; in clear rivers.

Q. But we cannot distinguish one as a dirty and one as a clean river?—A. Well, you can easily find out—there are very few dirty rivers.

Q. Therefore it would apply generally?—A. Yes; there are not over three or four where you can gill salmon.

Q. Do persons who fish for you haul seines in the rivers?—A. Well, we have not bought any yet from seines.

Q. Then why are you giving evidence of the inability to catch salmon with gill-nets?—A. Well, we have tried gill-nets—I am speaking now of the river from Alert Bay where gill-nets have been tried time and time again and never with success—it is a limpid river and I have been up it, right up to the lake. Now on a river like the Fraser River you would not want a seine because the salmon gill.

Q. If they used the seine here would not they catch more fish than with the gill-net?—A. Well, yes, I think they would—if your seine took the bottom, of course, they would.

Q. But a seine generally does take the bottom?—A. Yes, of course—the Fraser River I am not so well acquainted with, but in smaller rivers I know that is the only chance to catch them.

Q. The seining you propose—is it on the river proper or on the coast?—A. At the mouth of rivers.

Q. Just where fish congregate to go up to spawn?—A. Well, of course, they have to come there to get in the rivers.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Are they large rivers—how wide at the mouth?—A. Some rivers 200 feet. I should say from 200 to 300 feet.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. And you draw the seine within that 200 feet and you take in all the river?—A. Well, a seine drawing on each side would take in—well, all the mouth.

Q. How many meshes in the bag of the net?—A. Well, it runs from five up. It just depends where you fish. Seines would run from ten to twenty feet deep.

Q. And what length?—A. Twenty to thirty and seventy-five fathoms.

Q. The lead lines always dragging on bottom and the corks on top, forming a bag as you draw it in?—A. Yes.

Q. What mesh do you use?—A. From two to four inch.

Q. Do you catch sockeyes there?—A. Well, those fish are caught in one river there. The only river we seine for the cannery is the Minkish. I don't know if any are used north of that or not.

Q. Have you been present when seines are drawn?—A. Yes; I have been present.

Q. What fish are caught, principally?—A. Sockeyes during their season. I have not been present when drawn—

Q. What other fish?—A. I have seen small fish—herring, flounders, and anything coming within the compass of the net would be brought in.

Q. What sizes of salmon?—A. Well, about the same size as on the Fraser River.

Q. Seven to eight pounds?—A. Yes.

Q. Are not smaller salmon, from two to three pounds, caught there?—A. No; I never heard of any.

Q. How are small salmon exposed on the markets for sale—are they caught in seines?—A. I don't know.

Q. Have you any on your stalls?—A. Well, a few are brought to me by fishermen.

Q. What time of the year are they brought?—A. I have seen them last March—some in February, a few—I never saw many on the market.

Q. Or you don't know how many are caught with seines at the mouth of rivers?—A. I don't think many at any time of the year. I think small salmon come in when no one is fishing.

Q. You catch herring?—A. Yes.

Q. And colachans?—A. No; the meshes are too big, and then it is only in a few rivers where the colachans are.

Q. What is the size of herring caught?—A. Small—eight to ten inches.

Q. Then the net would catch small salmon of eight or ten inches?—A. Yes; it would.

Q. And if small salmon or trout were going in or out the mouth of these rivers, they would be caught?—A. Yes.

Q. What do you mean by trout?—A. I mean river trout.

Q. Do you know small salmon from trout?—A. Yes; I know them, but they never draw for herring at the mouths of rivers with inch mesh.

Q. Do you mean inch extension measure?—A. Yes; extension mesh. Two to four inch are generally used in the mouths of rivers.

Q. And would four inch catch salmon?—A. Oh, no; there are very few seines used on the coast.

Q. But they may grow to a great extent and create injurious results?—A. I don't think they would be an injury in deep water fisheries.

Q. Then if the use of seines were forbidden at the mouth of rivers, could they not catch salmon farther away?—A. No, sir; you see there could be no salmon taken at all in these rivers, unless taken by a seine.

Q. Why?—A. Because they will not gill.

Q. But why should seines be drawn at the mouth of rivers?—A. Well, I will show you. See here—(here witness drew a pencil diagram on paper, to illustrate his meaning, and presented to the Chairman.)

Q. But it would not catch more fish that way?—A. Oh, yes; of course it would; but parent fish have plenty of chance to get up the river. You see, it takes, say, three hours to throw the seine, and then they have the whole night for getting up.

Q. You never throw the seine at night?—A. Well, I never draw my seine at night. I cannot see that the fishermen up north can make a success of fishing there for salmon without seines. It is impossible for them to do it.

Q. Well, that was the way in all other places—in England and Scotland, &c.?—A. But do you not know that an Englishman gave away part of our country because the salmon would not take the fly (laughter). Well, that was the way when I came out here. I put down my trap and could not understand why I could not catch any salmon. I have set a gill-net for 250 miles up the coast, and I have set a trap up as far north as Cape Scott (north-western part of Vancouver Island), and never caught a salmon with either of them. Salmon will not lead here, sir.

Q. And you say salmon always run to the east?—A. Not here; they run every way. I said on the Atlantic coast they run east, but here they do not.

Q. But suppose a north and south river—what would they do?—A. Well, this is what I mean (illustrating his meaning by pencil diagram on paper). I have had trap nets and consider nets and salmon on the Atlantic coast quite different to the ones here.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Do you think salmon knows its native river?—A. I do; and they go to that river and no other, because I see there is a little difference between the salmon here and the salmon north. You notice some difference between the Fraser River salmon and the northern salmon.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. No matter then whether the river runs from east, or west, or north, he would go in that river?—A. Yes; but our mackerel do the same thing; they follow down the American coast. As regards fishing for salmon, though, on our coasts here I think I am pretty correct as far as my experience goes from the way we have had our nets set, &c.

Q. Well, then, if salmon all go to their native rivers—and which is an admitted fact everywhere—and a river is 200 yards wide at the mouth, hauling a seine for 200 yards at the mouth of the stream, would it not interfere with the migration of salmon going up that river to breed?—A. Yes; to a certain extent; I don't believe that every salmon that goes in the river spawns.

Q. Why should they leave their feeding grounds and go up rivers if not for some purpose?—A. Well, they follow the flock.

Q. Then if an old fish went up and didn't feed, and went to breed, she would take the smaller ones and they would wait until she was through and then come back?—A. Well, I believe so; of course I have not had the same experience here as in the east to have the same knowledge of salmon, but as far as I know I have given you my experience.

Q. As salmon all frequent their native stream, and at annual periods migrate up that stream, any extra fishing at the mouth of a river would prevent the family going up then, would it not?—A. Of course it would thin them out to a certain extent, but I think there are plenty of chances for enough to get up to spawn, outside of them.

Q. What is the width of the mouth of the river you have reference to?—A. It is quite narrow; there is a lake further up.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Do fish get up to the lake?—A. Oh, yes; they get up to the lake; I have seen Indians coming down from the lake with dog-salmon which they have dried for their own use. Now, I know a place where we have taken fish out where the river strikes the canyon, perfectly black with salmon, but they went no further, and came back; they are not merchantable salmon, but very good salmon.

Q. Are these cohoes or humpbacks?—A. They are not just exactly humpbacks; the flesh is like the humpback, but they are different to sockeyes and cohoes.

Q. Have you steel-heads there?—A. Yes; there are steel-heads.

Q. Then these rivers are practically the same as those down here!—A. Yes; practically much the same.

Q. What is the usual average mesh of gill-nets there?—A. Five and seven-eighths.

Q. This is used for gill nets?—A. Yes.

Q. You use seines with three and four-inch mesh?—A. Yes; I have seen them with three and four-inch mesh.

Q. Yes; equal to two-inch mesh; would not this be more likely to take salmon than five and seven-eighths-inch mesh in a gill-net?—A. Certainly, it would.

Q. And it would not only catch more salmon of the same size, but smaller ones too?—A. Well, no; I have never seen any small ones in these northern rivers.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, but one must destroy more than the other—one floats on the surface and the other drags on the bottom all the time, thus a seine must be more destructive than a gill-net, taking one of each?—A. Oh, yes; if you take one of each, but here is a river with 200 boats in it and here one with one seine in it.

Q. But would not a seine be more destructive than a gill-net?—A. I would sooner take my chances with a gill-net if the water was muddy.

Q. Are not all rivers in these parts more or less muddy in certain seasons of the year?—A. I think it is likely they are in certain seasons of the year, but salmon may not be in those rivers at that time.

Q. What time do salmon generally enter the rivers there?—A. Well, the rivers north have salmon earlier than the rivers here.

Q. But the rivers you speak of?—A. I am not talking of one river, I am speaking of several rivers, because I know of several where we would operate if allowed.

Q. In what season would you operate?—A. The latter part of July and August.

Q. Is that the period when the fish are running up river?—A. Yes; they make the river about that time.

Q. Is this the sockeye?—A. No; we don't fish for sockeye—we want big spring salmon for shipping east; they don't suit for canning—they have been tried but were not thought well of.

Q. You want seines for catching spring salmon?—A. Yes; I wish you to understand me—we have not caught any, but we desire to do so.

Q. Then you want the use of seines, to be permitted at mouths of rivers to catch salmon?—A. Yes; in rivers with clear water. There are rivers up north that are gravelly bottomed rivers and seines don't effect them and it would be wrong to have the

river only to catch fish with gill-nets like in the Fraser River. I have seen several rivers up north, of course I have not stayed there every day to see, but from all the information we could gather from Indians and inhabitants we understand it was all clear water.

Q. Have you anything further, sir?—A. The reason that makes me speak of the salt water fishing is this seining is an industry for catching fish that cannot be caught otherwise owing to the physical peculiarities of the streams. Then these salmon are not fit for canning but would be a valuable fish if we could place them on the market; I think they will be a profitable fish for sale. We have not tested it but we intend to test it and think these privileges should not be stopped. We have been making a study of the coast before commencing operations.

Q. Do you understand that the same thing has occurred in other parts of the country? And you have left it to better yourself in this country?—A. No; I did not come here with that intention solely. In the Fraser River there is no need of seines, gill-nets do their business there, but in clear rivers with salmon it only lets the fish die off and no one gets the benefit of them at all—they come there and breed and die off.

Q. Do they die off?—A. Well, I understand that a salmon dies always at four years old.

Q. Do you see fish coming down after spawning?—A. Oh, yes; I have seen dog-fish coming down after spawning.

Q. Many persons think that all fish die that go up the Fraser River?—A. Well, a great many die anyway.

Q. Do you adhere to the close season up there?—A. I don't think they fish on Sundays up there—not for salmon.

Q. What do you think about the license fee?—A. Well, that is a pretty hard question for me to answer.

Q. You only pay \$5 up there?—A. Well, of course, I am not in the cannery business, and it would not be right for me to interfere in the canners' business.

Q. But we want all the evidence we can get?—A. Well, I think we are all trying to get licenses as low as possible, if we get them at all.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Mr. Chairman, this room is very close and the atmosphere oppressive, we have a large number in here and the room is not large, and I would move that we adjourn for 15 minutes.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well, it is rather close here, this Commission is adjourned for 15 minutes.

Intermission.

The Commission resumed business at 4 p.m.

Mr. FADER.—Mr. Chairman, before you proceed with a fresh witness I would like to be allowed to state that I think fishermen holding salt-water licenses should be allowed to come inside of the boundary to the banks of the sand heads, and persons with fresh-water licenses should not go beyond half way to the straits.

CHARLIE CAPLIN, a Siwash, Chief of the Musquam Indian Band, was duly sworn. Being unable to speak English sufficiently well to give evidence, Mr. John Rose acted as interpreter, and was sworn to translate correctly the questions put to the witness and his replies.

The witness handed in the following note to Mr. Commissioner Armstrong by way of introduction: —

“W. J. ARMSTRONG, Esq.,

“DEAR SIR,—The bearer of this is the Tioe of the Musquam Indians and wishes to express his grievance to you with regard to getting fishing licenses, &c., for himself and his Indians.

“He seems rather excited, and, if possible, I wish you could give him a hearing.

“Yours respectfully,

(Signed)

“JAMES WISE.

“New Westminster, B.C., 23rd February, 1892.”

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, what is it the chief wants?—A. (After being interpreted.) He wants to tell you that it is about licenses—there are lots of Indians on the same ranch as himself and they can't get licenses.

Q. How is it they cannot get licenses?—A. He says he don't know what is the reason, but it has been for lots of times—some Indians get licenses, but he could never get one.

Q. Ask him how many Indians get licenses?—A. Ten Indians get licenses on his ranch.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Ten Indians of his tribe?—A. Ten only.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Where do they fish when they get licenses?—A. They fish always on the North Arm of the Fraser.

Q. What do they fish with?—A. With gill-nets, the same as whitemen.

Q. They follow the same regulations as are given by the department for whitemen?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do they pay the same fee?—A. Just the same, sir.

Q. Do they fish for their own use, or for sale to canneries?—A. They fish for sale to the canneries.

Q. Are there many other Indians besides these ten who fish for the canneries, without licenses?—A. Ten more fish for the canneries without licenses.

Q. How do they fish without licenses?—A. They work by the day, sir.

Q. Do any work on shares?—A. They always work by the day.

Q. What usual price per day do they get?—A. \$2 for a net-man, and \$1.50 for a boat-puller.

Q. The principal grievance is then that more Indians cannot get licenses to fish on their own account?—A. He grumbles also about the depth of the nets; he thinks they are killing salmon too fast down at the mouth of the river.

Q. Does that apply to canneries and fishermen as well?—A. Well, he says it is not right that one should be deep and the other shallow fishing in the same waters.

Q. What kind of net does his ten Indians fish with who have licenses?—A. Twenty-five mesh-nets; generally thirty is about the run.

Q. How many meshes deep are the nets that he says are too deep?—A. Most of the whitemen use fifty-mesh nets.

Q. They don't generally work in the same waters as whitemen?—A. Oh, yes; all fish in the same waters.

Q. They fished in the north arm of the Fraser?—A. Yes.

Q. All the ten Indians fished there?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How far do they fish out from the mouth of the north arm into the Straits?—

A. About a quarter of a mile from the mouth, off the Island.

Q. From Sea Island? How far out from Sea Island do they fish?—A. They go out about two miles from the island.

Q. What would be the average of salmon caught by each Indian in a season?—A. Last summer one of them caught 5,000 during the season.

Q. Would all be sockeyes?—A. All sockeyes.

Q. Is not 5,000 a large number?—A. Yes; quite a large number.

Q. They would not average that?—A. No, sir.

Q. What do they get per fish?—A. \$15 a hundred last year, and \$10 a hundred the year before.

Q. Do they fish for any special cannery?—A. Mr. Todd's and Mr. Munn's

Q. Where are their canneries?—A. Mr. Todd's is on the north arm, and Mr. Mann's on Sea Island.

Q. Are there any others on the north arm besides these?—A. There is a new cannery going up there.

Q. Todd's and Munn's are close together, are they?—A. No, sir; they are some piece away, but they fish together. Mr. Munn's is on Sea Island, and Mr. Todd's on the north arm.

Q. Where is the newly built one?—A. On Lulu Island.

Q. Then does this Indian think that these deep nets are too destructive to salmon—A. That is their idea; all the Indians think they are too deep.

Q. Ask him if the nets drag near the bottom?—A. Yes; they do.

Q. Do you know the difference between a seine and a gill-net?—A. Yes; but seines are no good for salmon in the Fraser.

Q. Ask him if the working of deep gill-nets has practically the same effect as seines?—A. Oh, these both kill the salmon the same.

Q. Ask him if the salmon are scarcer or more numerous now than years ago?—A. He says they are nothing now to what they were when he was a boy.

Q. What reason does he give for that?—A. He thinks the nets are too long and it stops the salmon from going up and has a tendency to kill them all.

Q. What does he think the salmon goes up the river for?—A. He knows well what they come in for—they come in to lay their eggs up the rivers and he doesn't want to see them killed off.

Q. Does he think the amount of fishing now, if continued, would seriously injure the river fish?—A. He thinks it will in course of time if the long nets are kept going—it will destroy the salmon in time.

Q. Has he seen many dead salmon far up in rivers or in lakes?—A. Yes; he has seen lots of dead salmon up the creeks, some floating, some half-dead, &c.

Q. At what season of the year would he see them floating and half-dead?—A. He could hardly tell that, sir, they go by the moon—he says he don't like to see the salmon killed and thrown into the river after caught.

Q. Ask him whether he knows if a large number are thrown into the river?—A. He thinks all fishermen do it—when fishermen have a great quantity and cannerys cannot take them, they throw them overboard.

Q. Is it true that fish not adapted for the cannerys are given to the Indians?—A. Yes, sir; all they require and can take away.

Q. Are the quantities so large that Indians cannot take them away, and are the rest thrown away?—A. If it is not good the Indians will not take it but throw it away.

Q. To what extent, so far as numbers go, has he seen thrown away at one time?—A. If very plentiful they do it, but if not very plentiful they take care of them.

Q. Has he seen as many as a boat-load thrown away at any one time?—A. He has seen them thrown from a boat, but they are generally on the wharfs.

Q. What does he call a boat-load?—A. Oh, he says he does not see the fish thrown in—he sees them in the water.

Q. Does he think that injurious, and the offal, does he think that injurious to fish or to Whitemen?—A. He thinks it injurious to the salmon because the siwashes never throw the guts, &c., in the water because the salmon will not cross the deposits of offal in the river.

Q. How does it effect the water for the Indian or whitemen to use?—A. He thinks everybody on the Fraser River will get sick if it is continued to be thrown in the water.

Q. Would it be wise on the part of the authorities to prevent offal going into the water?—A. He thinks it would be good if they were not thrown in.

Q. Has offal created any sickness or disease amongst the Indians?—A. He says he thinks some of them get sick by drinking the water.

Q. About the early run of fish called spring salmon do they catch them principally for market, or all sockeye?—A. They don't fish generally for spring salmon.

Q. Ask him whether as a tribe do they consider the spring salmon or the sockeye the best for their own use?—A. They would rather have the spring salmon for their food than the sockeye—some Indians will not look at the sockeye to eat—they don't like them.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Ask him whether before the canneries were established here or the big fishing business commenced, they caught sockeyes to any extent at all, or preferred catching the other salmon for their purposes?—A. They always catch spring salmon for their own use.

Q. Ask him if he thinks it right to prevent fishing on Sunday?—A. He thinks fishing on Sunday should be stopped.

Q. Is it right for the licenses when obtained by companies or others, that they should be re-sold or bartered to the Indians or any one else?—A. I can't make him understand that sir.

Q. Oh, well ask him what time in the year do the spring salmon spawn up the rivers?—A. Towards the fall.

Q. And the sockeye and the spring salmon, do they all spawn at the same time?—A. Yes; he thinks they spawn about the same time.

Q. Do cohoes and humpbacks spawn about the same time as the others?—A. Yes; he has seen lots of those up the river spawning at the same time.

Q. Then does he think that all salmon go up river to spawn at or about the same time?—A. He thinks they do spawn about the same time.

Q. Could he answer what month. A. No; they go by moons—I could not calculate that.

Q. Are Indians of the belief that all salmon die and none return down?—A. He thinks they never return—about one-half stay in the river swimming about until they die—he thinks some return to the sea again.

Q. Has he ever seen any salmon going down the Fraser River or the North Arm a long time after the fishing season was over?—A. He does see salmon going down, and he thinks about half of them go down to salt water after they have spawned.

Q. Ask him that again to be sure?—A. Yes, he has seen them lots of times going down, and about half, he thinks, goes down.

Q. Have Indians applied to pay for licenses? Do all want licenses?—A. Yes, they all want licenses.

Q. Would they make more money than fishing for canneries or otherwise?—A. Yes, they would make more money with a license.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Have the ten who have licenses, have they boats of their own?—A. Yes, they have.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. And fish independently?—A. Yes; they buy nets from the canneries.

Q. Can they make their own nets or boats?—A. Oh, yes; there was no one else here years ago but the Indians.

Q. How many are there of his band?—A. 34 belong to his ranch—that is, able-bodied Indians.

Q. Do they consider it safe to fish directly at the mouths of rivers?—A. He thinks about one-half the salmon are caught in that way.

Mr. WILMOT.—Have you anything further to ask, Mr. Armstrong?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—No; I think you have covered all the points.

Mr. WILMOT.—Tell him we are much obliged to him; that will do. We are obliged to you, sir, for your services as interpreter.

FRANK WRIGHT, of New Westminster, a native of Ontario, a fish dealer and exporter, living in British Columbia for six years, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, sir, what have you to state?—A. Well, I have been in the fish business about four years in the province, about two years in New Westminster, and there are two opposition markets here and one had ten licenses.

Q. What do you mean by opposition markets?—A. People engaged in the same business as myself. I represent Wright Brothers.

Q. And the other firm?—A. W. H. Vienna, there is another market, too, Mr. Lord.

Q. Do you send fish away in ice?—A. In ice.

Q. Where are the markets you send to?—A. New York and Boston, and Manitoba and the eastern provinces.

Q. What may have been the extent of business in any one year?—A. Well, we have been so handicapped by not getting licenses that we have practically no business.

Q. Do other companies get licenses?—A. Port gets ten and Lord gets two but we get none, we applied for them and engaged boats and nets and went to great expense last year in telegraphing to Ottawa for licenses, but could not get them.

Q. Do Lord and Vienna—do they fish practically themselves?—A. Well, they do fish some of their own boats—we depend principally on the spring run of fish—the others are not so good for export—we depend principally upon these, though not wholly.

Q. What other fish do you get?—A. Sockeyes, but they don't do so well.

Q. Sockeyes are used wholly in the canneries?—A. It is used also in the home markets.

Q. Do you catch spring salmon when sockeyes are running?—A. No; we get them later in the season, but not so good then.

Q. Why are they not so good?—A. Because there are more spent fish among them.

Q. What do you mean by "spent" fish?—A. Oh, fish that have spawned.

Q. What season of the year does this take place when they are spent?—A. Well, just after the cohoe run—about the 1st of September.

Q. When these are brought to you to purchase do you find others that are not spawned and eggs still in their bodies?—A. Oh, yes; a great many have been in brackish water so long they get soft and flabby.

Q. Well, now, in regard to these licenses that other persons engaged in the same trade as you—one has ten and the other two—you think they have a superiority over you?—A. Why certainly, when fish begin to run we cannot get any and they had a monopoly for outside boats.

Q. And you were handicapped in this way?—A. Yes; we should have the same licenses, as we are in the same business.

Q. How many licenses would satisfy your trade?—A. Five; we only applied for two, but I think five would be about right.

Q. If you had five licenses would you practically use the boats yourself?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. But you could not use them all unless you hired them out?—A. Oh, we have unlimited market and capital and would use them by our own men.

Q. On shares?—A. No; not for spring salmon—perhaps for sockeyes.

Q. Would you withdraw boats in the sockeye run?—A. Well, it might pay better if other parties were doing the same.

Q. Do you salt fish at all?—A. No; we deal in salt fish, but we never put any up as yet.

Q. Have you made any observation in connection with offal thrown in the river—whether it is injurious in one sense or another?—A. Well, I don't think it does a great deal of harm, yet it cannot do any good.

Q. What is your view in regard to the limitation of nets to canners and ordinary fishermen—do you think all applicants who are British subjects should get licenses?—A. I think every man who has a boat and net of his own should get a license, but he should be a British subject and a resident.

Q. And that they should be unlimited?—A. Yes.

Q. In regard to canning or other industry, should any be injured or their licenses fixed, what do you think?—A. I think twenty boats quite sufficient for canners.

Q. What is your view regarding the close season, namely that Sunday should not be used for fishing?—A. I think the present close time very good.

Q. You are aware six hours of Sunday is at the present time utilized for work—what do you think of that?—A. Well, the sockeye run only such a short time, they would have no work on Monday if they did not start till six o'clock Monday.

Q. Have you had anything to do with the coast fisheries or sea fisheries independent of the Fraser River?—A. Yes; I have, when I was in Vancouver I dealt in salt-water fish—in the drying and exporting of cod-fish and other salt-water fish.

Q. What was the result?—A. Halibut pays well but not cod-fish.

Q. Have you any opinion with regard to benefits accruing from artificial breeding here?—A. Yes, I think the present hatchery is a decided success—I think there should be a hatchery also to breed the first run of spring salmon. This export business is just in its infancy now—it is only, you may say, two year old—the largest export last year was ninety cases, that is 720 salmon, and we pay one dollar a piece for them on the river—that is \$720 a day to the white fishermen.

Q. The value of the sockeye is what?—A. It averages from 10 to 20 cents.

Q. What is the usual weight of the dollar salmon?—A. It averages from fourteen to sixteen pounds.

Q. And the average sockeye?—A. Seven to eight pounds.

Q. You ship the whole of the spring salmon away?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you clean it at all?—A. No.

Q. Everything is shipped?—A. Yes.

Q. You sell them at so much each?—A. No, we sell by the pound.

Q. What might spring salmon bring you per pound in the New York or Boston markets?—A. The first run brings 25 to 30 cents.

Q. Have you ever shipped any sockeye to these markets?—A. Yes; but they come late in the season, and the first run strikes the markets when there are no other fish there. When you send sockeye the lake fish are in the markets and you get very little for them.

Q. What would sockeye fetch?—A. From eight to fifteen cents per pound.

Q. Then is it a much more profitable business to fishermen on the river at such prices to catch and dispose of spring salmon than sockeye—the ordinary fisherman, I mean?—A. Well, I don't really know; it depends a great deal on the run; sometimes they run forty spring salmon to the day, and 400 or 500 sockeye a day, so it would be about the same thing; the average spring salmon caught would be six to twelve a day.

Q. What colour is the spring salmon?—A. Red.

Q. All red?—A. There are some white ones, but very few on the first run; they come in after the sockeye.

Q. How about the quality?—A. The white are not marketable fish.

Q. Are they marketable later on in the season?—A. They sell here at the first run.

Q. Your object then is all the way through, that you who are engaged in the business of fishing here, should be placed fairly on the same basis as others engaged in the same work?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you any suggestion you would like to make?—A. Yes; I would like to make a suggestion as regards trout. There are two different kinds; one follows the salmon and destroys spawn, and the only time they are valuable is during the close season. They are most valuable in the market from September to March, and I would like to have the season open from the 1st September to 1st March.

Q. Would that not be the very time when spawning?—A. No; they don't spawn until after that; I think they spawn in April.

Q. How do you know that?—A. Because I have examined them and found eggs in them then. They are caught extensively then, but they get discoloured and slimy. I don't think there is anything else about which I wished to speak.

MR. ARMSTRONG :—We are much obliged to you, sir, if that is all.

JOHN B. MARQUETTE, a native of Ontario, six years in British Columbia, and a resident of Mission City, B. C.—a trader and exporter of fish, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Do you follow the operations of a trader and exporter?—A. Yes ; I am both a trader, salter, and exporter.

Q. Where is your place of business?—A. At Well's Landing—about two miles above Mission Station. I have not been able to obtain a license.

Q. Have you fished on a license lately?—A. I have fished on other men's license.

Q. You have applied for licenses?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was any cause given why you should not get one?—A. One time I was informed my application was in too late, although put in in the month of January.

Q. What number of licenses did you apply for?—A. For one.

Q. And in your business as a salter, would one be sufficient?—A. I ought to have from two to five.

Q. Then any work you have carried on, it has been depending upon getting your fish from other parties?—A. Yes ; I got the use of other parties' licenses and furnished boats and men.

Q. Did you have to pay anything in excess of the licenses fee?—A. One I had to pay twenty dollars fee and another I had to pay more for—the one I got for twenty dollars was for only part of the season.

Q. What was the amount you paid for the other?—A. Thirty dollars.

Q. What was the man doing from whom you bought the license?—A. He has been carrying on business for some years and sold out to me—his warehouse and outfits, &c.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Where do you fish?—A. Right at Well's Landing, at a place called Nicomen Slough.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. The fish that you catch in this lake—what are they like?—A. I never fish in a lake—it is in the main Fraser.

Q. Do you find the quality of the fish there as good as at the mouth of the river?—A. I don't see any difference.

Q. What quantity would a boat get there fishing in a day?—A. Oh, last year's run was not very good. We would get from five and six to eighteen and twenty—sometimes more and sometimes less—that was spring salmon—I have caught over eleven hundred sockeye in eight hours. Some sockeye I shipped and others I salted.

Q. Where did you ship the sockeyes?—A. To Montreal.

Q. Did you find a ready sale?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How did they sell compared with spring salmon?—A. Not as good—they don't take as well.

Q. You don't freeze them?—A. No ; we pack them in ice.

Q. Is the demand large for these fish, below there?—A. Yes, sir ; I had no trouble in finding plenty of markets for mine.

Q. Have you tried the American market?—A. I have shipped to New York—that is the only place in the States I have shipped to.

Q. Have you anything to say about this offal question?—A. That is a thing I know nothing about.

Q. You shipped your fish whole?—A. Yes ; except those we salted.

Q. With them did you do like the rest?—A. Yes, we threw it in the river.

Q. Is much fishing done there?—A. Not a great deal.

Q. How is it done up there—by whom?—A. Oh, Indians, half-breeds, and white people.

Q. But the catch is comparatively small?—A. Yes, there are not many employed in the fishery.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Do you think you could catch as many there as farther down?—A. No, I don't think so—not as many as at the mouth of the river.

Q. It has been stated, though, that fish when they get in the mouth of the river, leave the same day?—A. That is not my opinion.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Have you any theory as to how rapidly they migrate up river?—A. Well, I think spring salmon takes longer to get up than the others—I don't think they go over twenty miles in a day.

Q. Have you ever observed that they travel more at night than day time?—A. Yes, I have, and I think they travel more at the turn of the tide than at any other time.

Q. Are there any saw-mills near you?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do they throw their sawdust and rubbish in the river?—A. No.

Q. What do they do with it?—A. Well, there is no saw-mill near my place. There is one at Langley and one on Silver Creek—but then this is not on the creek—it is near it, but on dry land.

Q. What do you think of the effects of sawdust if thrown in the water?—A. I think it is very injurious to fish.

Q. Have you anything to say as regards the limitation of the number of nets?—A. I think that *bona fide* dealers and fishermen ought to get licenses.

Q. In what proportion—all alike—one license?—A. Well, no sir; I think a man who is shipping is entitled to more licenses than an ordinary fisherman. I think a man who has nothing more than boat and net—he should not have as many licenses as a man carrying on a large business—still, I don't think it a good plan to grant licenses to everybody, unless a *bona fide* fisherman and owner of his own boat and net.

Q. Would you allow foreigners and others?—A. Well, I think that all should be British subjects and residents for some time before they apply for licenses.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. What do you think of allowing farmers licenses at a cheap rate for their own consumption?—A. Well, there is an obstacle to that—the farmer cannot go and buy a boat and net as cheap as he can buy the fish, however, I think the most of the farmers' licenses are proper.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. But, if he wants to get a stock of fish for his own use?—A. Oh, well, I think he should be able to get that without a license, but if there was a licensed man there he should buy fish from him, but if he gets a boat and net of his own, he should be allowed to catch fish for his family by all means.

Q. What number of licenses would you say for Canneries?—A. Well, that is something on which I am not posted. They should, I think, get licenses according to their size and capacity.

Q. But if all of the same capacity, what would be a fair average?—A. Well, if every British subject and fisherman got licenses, I think the cannerymen would not fret whether they had one or three dozen.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. On the same ground the exporter would not either?—A. No; on the same ground he would not.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. On the principle of two or five licenses being sufficient for your demand, you think in what proportion should licenses be granted to canners?—A. I think twenty a reasonable limit.

Q. Do you think the present close season right?—A. Not exactly; I think we should fish week days and keep the whole of Sunday.

Q. Have you taken any notice of the effect of artificial breeding of fish on this river?—A. I have, some.

Q. What do you think of the system of hatching by artificial means on the river?—A. A good thing and a success, to a certain extent.

Q. Would it be much more successful if largely increased?—A. I think it would, and be beneficial to the province.

Q. Have you taken notice of dead fish in the river to any extent?—A. Yes, I have seen a great many.

Q. In what season?—A. September and October.

Q. What is your theory as to the cause of death?—A. Well, they get up in small lakes and shallow waters and they fight and kill one another—I have seen the greatest quantity in Harrison Lake.

Q. Do you think all fish that go up river die?—A. No; I don't—I think very few of the spring salmon die, you will see very few of them dead—more of the sockeye and humpbacks.

Q. They are very numerous both in going up and dying?—A. Yes; I may say I think white salmon is made so by being longer in the river. I have cut them open on the back and the first half inch would be perfectly white and farther in and around the back-bone would be perfectly red.

Q. And white salmon of the spring species, would you call those fish in good condition or otherwise?—A. Early in the season spring salmon are in good condition—I think they remain in the river all winter, having gone up in the autumn of the previous year. I have seen them caught in nearly all the months of the year by the Indians.

Q. Then you think white salmon is really red salmon in the sea, and it changes its colour in the river—do you think it is the same as the sockeye?—A. Yes; but sockeyes stay in a shorter time—the coho turn white, too, and the humpback is always of a lighter colour, and the dog-fish are red when they first come in.

Q. What about the steel-head?—A. Well, I never saw one white-fleshed, and I have seen them caught in every month of the year. The principal time for them to spawn is, I think, in March and April, after which they are spent fish and very poor.

Q. Are you of the opinion that these fish, too, have gone up the year previous and would be in best condition just previous to the commencement of this spawning time you speak of?—A. Yes, and they must have come in in January and February.

Q. You have seen them, too, opened?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And as many eggs as the spring salmon?—A. No; I think not.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. What is your opinion as regards the limit for fishing—it is now tidal water—should it be reduced any?—A. Well, there is nothing that I know of done as far up as tidal water—tidal water goes to Harrison River.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Oh, no, the tide never goes above the rapids at Miller's Landing?—A. Well, I have been told it does. Sumas Lake is tidal water is it not.

Q. Yes, but that comes in below?—A. Well, I have been told that they have three inches of tide at the mouth of the Harrison River.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. How far does the ordinary fisherman fish up river to supply fish to the canneries below?—A. None above Well's Landing.

Q. Then are boats engaged in fishing all the way up from New Westminster to take fish down to the canneries?—A. Well, at certain places—many places are not good fishing grounds.

Q. And where it is good fishing grounds?—A. Well, there is fishing there.

Q. Is there anything further you would wish to state?—A. No, I think not.

Q. Have you anything further to ask Mr. Armstrong?—A. Mr. Armstrong, no, nothing more.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Very well, that will do.

The Commission adjourned at 5.58 p.m., to meet again at the same place at 10 a.m., the following day.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., 24th February, 1892.

Fifth day's Session.

The Commission assembled in the Court-house and was called to order by the chair at 10 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Wilmot (presiding), Mr. Sheriff Armstrong, Mr. C. F. Winter (Secretary.)

MARSHALL M. ENGLISH, of New Westminster, a native of the United States, though residing in New Westminster for the last 15 years, engaged in the salmon canning business, indirectly representing the local board of management of the Anglo-British Columbia Canning Co., representing eleven canneries in British Columbia, was duly sworn.

Mr. WILMOT.—Have you any statement to make?

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. You represent eleven canneries, Mr. English?—A. Yes, sir; two up north and nine on this river.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Do you wish to submit anything?—A. Not at present. The canning industry on this river is a big one and no two years are alike—there is a rotation of four years, and the number of boats that will answer for one season will be very much out of proportion in another. I think the cannerymen should have at least 25 boats and have it made a fixture, and not changed from one year to another.

Q. Not less than 25, and it should be a fixed number?—A. Yes, not less than 25 and a fixed number—we are handled differently by the department from year to year.

Q. Would you advocate all and every cannery to get twenty-five?—A. Well, I don't know as you could do anything else.

Q. No restrictions?—A. Well, it would rest with the department. I would not recommend one way or the other—I don't think that those who have been in business for a number of years should suffer for the building up of others.

Q. Then that would be, no new canneries would be allowed?—A. Well, that would be at the disposition of the department—it would make no difference if we were not cut down for building up others—if a limitation on the river, then those who established the industry should be protected first.

Q. Would twenty-five licenses do that?—A. Yes; with outside licenses, they should, I think.

Q. But, would twenty-five licenses, if permanent, sufficiently protect you?—A. Well, while it would that far, I don't think twenty-five licenses enough for any cannery.

Q. But a sufficient protection?—A. Well, it would be a protection, of course.

Q. Are the companies that you have acted as agent or manager for wholly on the Fraser River?—A. No, sir; two on the Skeena and nine here.

Q. What is the capacity of these canneries generally—in ordinary average seasons?—A. Well, I think that all of them are capable of 25,000 cases and upwards.

Q. And would twenty-five licenses give to these canneries sufficient fish for 20,000 cases?—A. No, sir.

Q. Would it give them 15,000 cases?—A. No, sir.

Q. Would it give them 10,000?—A. On an average I don't know that it would—it might. Now, as an illustration, I packed in two canneries this year, the Phoenix and another and with twenty boats packed about 7,000 cases. I don't think twenty-five boats would average over 10,000 cases. Take four years ago, I packed, with twenty-seven boats, 4,000 cases—that was in 1888; in 1889 I had about thirty-five boats and packed something over 20,000 cases, in 1890 I had thirty-two boats and packed between 14,000 and 15,000 cases, I am speaking of my own property all that time, in 1891 I packed about six or seven thousand.

Q. Do you recollect how many licenses you had in 1890?—A. In 1890 I think I had twenty licenses, and twenty-four in 1889—the additional boats were got from outside. We always used outside boats, even when the river was open—the average number of boats fished by the canneries was about forty.

Q. How many in 1889?—A. Twenty-four were allotted me in 1889.

Q. Twenty the standard, and four allotted to you?—A. No; the balance was proportioned *pro rata* to capacity.

Q. Then you got four *pro rata*?—A. It was only the one year. The Government increased the number in 1889. They tried to make the limitation on the basis of capacity and gave Mr. Ewen thirty-nine boats and the British Columbia cannery were allotted twenty-four.

Q. That was nineteen over the twenty, and you got four over the twenty?—A. Yes; some got eighteen, some got twenty, it was worked up on the basis of what each cannery had packed for so many years.

Q. In 1889 then you had twenty-four licenses?—A. Yes; twenty-four—I think I used thirty-two or thirty-three boats.

A. And your pack was 20,000 cases?—A. Something over 20,000.

Q. Who is "English & Company"?—A. That is my cannery.

Q. I see two names here (B. C. Board of Trade Report, 1890,) "English & Co.," and "The Phoenix Packing Co."—A. I am connected with both of them.

Q. Well, that is one and the same thing?—A. Well, I never called it the "Phoenix" Company—it was in the hands of W. D. Coleman for a year or two, and I think they called it the "Phoenix" Company—the brand was the "Phoenix" brand. English & Co., worked from 1877 to 1884, inclusive, then we came in again in 1888, 1889 and 1890. In 1882 I operated over here, right opposite the city.

Q. In 1889 your pack was over 20,000 cases?—A. Something over twenty thousand in 1889—four licenses over the standard number.

Q. In 1890 you say you had twenty licenses—and how many outside boats did you get?—A. I think I had eleven or twelve.

Q. And your pack?—A. Something about 14,000 cases.

Q. Is that a fair average?—A. You take the four seasons and I think it is a fair average.

Q. For the eleven establishments you are now manager of?—A. I think so—I think any one would pack over 20,000, if they had more storage room they might pack 25,000. When the river was open we fished forty boats, we always took outside boats and employed outside fishermen besides the forty of our own—what was the position? We in many cases furnished them with gear, boats, &c., and took payment out in fish.

Q. Were you fishing in 1877?—A. Yes; I packed then about 25,000 cases—there was then only five canneries on the river.

Q. What number of boats did you use then?—A. Well, I don't say we had forty boats and upwards and I could not say how many we had besides, we also had a trap in

the river which the department made us take up. We also took fish from Harrison River and at Yale.

Q. How late did you fish in the Harrison River?—A. Up to September, we followed the fish up after they left here.

Q. What condition were the fish in then?—A. Harrison River fish were very good, the Yale fish were not so good.

Q. Were the fish then in appearance very large as regards spawning?—A. No; but towards the last many would begin to get discoloured and then we moved down the river.

Q. You fish as long as you could for the sockeye and then when you found you were not catching them as numerous as you wanted you followed them up the Harrison and Yale?—A. Yes; but we didn't catch very many, we could not get them down from there.

Q. That is now prevented?—A. Yes; I think it a good thing, too—there was no profit in getting them up there. We bought fish from Indians at \$4 a hundred or whatever we could get them for, once a steamer brought down thirty thousand.

Q. All caught by Indians in dip-nets?—A. Yes; in the eddies.

Q. And in 1877 you had 25,000 cases, how many fish to the case then?—A. About the same as now.

Q. What do you call a general average?—A. Well, it is according to the season, the average one season with another would be ten or eleven fish to a case. I packed one season—I think in 1884—the run was a light one and fish averaged ten or eleven to the case.

Q. That is a case of forty-eight one pound tins? Forty-eight pounds?—A. Yes, sir; sometimes they run more and some less—last year they would take fourteen to the case in the early part of the run.

Q. But the general average would be from ten to eleven to a case?—A. I think so.

Q. The average weight of fish then would be between seven and eight pounds?—A. Well, I think about seven or under.

Q. Because most of your brother cannerymen have stated they run from seven to eight pounds?

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Did you ever weigh the sockeye?—A. No; I do not think I ever did. I have weighed most of the other kinds, but we would not weigh a sockeye unless an extra large one.

Q. But if a person stated they weighed about eight pounds would he not be about correct?—A. I should think the sockeye would average seven pounds or so. A man could pick up ten fish that would weigh eight and a-half pounds, and then they might not weigh only four.

Q. Were fish small in 1890?—A. Fish were small that year.

Q. In 1889?—A. They were smaller—in 1888 they were larger—they are always larger in an off year.

Q. What was the great year?—A. 1877, 1881, 1885 and 1889—1882 and 1890 were exceedingly fine years also.

Q. They don't give you credit for fish in 1885?—A. No; we did not pack in 1885.

Q. Why?—A. Well, we could not get anything for them.

Q. It was not because the fish were not there?—A. Oh, no.

Q. What about the Wellington Packing Company?—A. Well, they are capable of packing over 20,000 cases—they generally pack 25,000.

Q. Well, they never packed that many, except in that one year?—A. What did they pack in 1889?

By Mr. Wilnot:

Q. They packed 20,000 then?—A. Yes; I thought so.

Q. But in 1886 11,000; 1888, 7,000; and in 1889, 20,000. Do off years generally average about the same thing?—A. Yes; as far as I know—1889 and 1890 were good, and 1881 and 1882 were fairly good.

Q. How do you account for "off" years?—A. Well, I don't know; I have thought about it, but the more you think about it the less you know about it; it occurred before I came to the country, and I have talked to Indians and they say it occurred before they were boys.

Q. Does this apply to all the rivers of British Columbia?—A. Well, I think the Skeena is different.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Do you think fish are not as early as before?—A. Well, I don't know; there is no change. In 1882 they came in on the 1st of July, and in 1877 on the 20th and 22nd of July.

Q. What time last year?—A. Near the end of July; the last two or three years they have been late, but whether it is the general rule or not I cannot tell.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Then what years do you say were off years?—A. 1883 and 1884; 1885 was a good year; 1886 was a very light year for a second year, and 1887 and 1888 light years.

Q. Do you recollect what 1882 was?—A. 1882 was a very heavy year for a second year, and 1885 should have been the next big year.

Q. The biggest year was 1882?—A. No; but fish ran up longer. 1881 was a good regular season. I ran two canneries in 1882 myself.

Q. Well, take 1886, 1887 and 1889, about the same number of canneries were running then?—A. No; I think there has been an increase; I don't know that there was an increase in 1887 and 1888. 1886, 1887 and 1888 were off years.

Q. 1885 was a good year then?—A. 1885 was an excellent year, but the canneries did not run.

Q. How did you know that it was a good year if you did not catch fish?—A. Well, there were several canneries running; I think Mr. Ewen packed 20,000 cases. I have no theory for off and heavy years; I don't think anybody can tell. We know fish come in and spawn and then young fish go out, but that is about all we can tell. They are never seen at sea.

Q. They are caught at sea, though?—A. Well, I have been told they are never seen.

Q. You would not call the Georgia Straits then a sea?—A. Oh, no; we know all fish coming are seen as they enter the Straits of Fuca, but they are never seen outside, nor ten miles outside there, but the moment they enter the Straits they are seen, and the Indians begin to catch them then.

Q. But the three last years have been pretty good?—A. Yes; a good average.

Q. Did you look forward to 1889 as being a good year?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. It was a late run, was it not?—A. Yes; they came in late and ran late; they were running after we closed down.

Q. And what do you think of the coming year?—A. Oh, an off year; a very poor year, but last year we got more fish than we expected.

Q. And you look forward to 1893?—A. As a heavy year; but the last two poor years have been exceedingly good.

Q. In 1889, which you called a first-class year, the pack was 414,294 cases; in 1890, 409,464 cases; that was not much of a falling off from 1889?—A. I think it is, however, about 330,000 in 1890, about 90,000 cases less than the former year.

Q. And of the 409,464 cases, 241,889 of them were taken in the the Fraser River in 1890—more than half of the whole?—A. Yes; last year the Fraser River pack was about 165,000 cases; your reports are not just exactly correct.

Q. But we got the information from the cannery themselves?—A. Oh, well, a variation of a few thousand cases would not make much difference; a man may give in a few more cases than he should.

Q. Oh, I always thought they were disposed to give rather less than more?—A. Oh, Mr. Wilnot, the cannery are not disposed to give anything lower; they are not afraid of anything that way.

Q. What do you say of licenses being granted to all British subjects, resident fishermen in the country?—A. I would not object to any of them getting licenses; but I don't know anything about it; I have got nothing to do with it. I think it is for this commission to find out whether they should have any. I think I would give them all a license.

Q. But I think you equally bound to answer even if the question regards the canneries or fishermen?—A. Oh, well, I think each fishermen should get a license.

Q. Should they be given to all applicants, or to British subjects, residents of the country?—A. Oh, to British subjects, residents of the country; I don't think every one should come in here and get a license; I think in the United States they follow that plan.

Q. What is your view in regard to canneries being limited, instead of twenty-five licenses to twenty or fifteen?—A. Well, I think it would hamper their business.

Q. From being so exclusive as at present? If fifteen or twenty licenses is the maximum would you not be able to get sufficient fish to supply the canneries from the outside fishermen?—A. I don't think so; I think a canneryman should have a sufficient number of boats to protect his industry.

Q. But if you had no licenses you would get all the fish you want?—A. Well, I would not like to be in the business; if we have licenses we know what we can rely on.

Q. If any limit is made, what limit would you say to the number of boats permitted to fish on the Fraser River?—A. Oh, I don't know.

Q. But you stated you think we should give unlimited licenses?—A. Well, I don't think it would increase the number of licenses very much; everybody is not going up to apply for licenses; I think there was 900 or over in 1882.

Q. That was a good year too?—A. Yes; it was a second year but an extraordinary good year; I think there was about 900 boats—something like that—I know there was a very large number.

Q. But then the limit of late, the outside limit of all has been from five to six hundred?—A. I think so.

Q. And that only admitted of about sixty or so outside white fishermen to use boats?—A. Oh, there was more than that.

Mr. McNAB.—Not over that, for you see out of the hundred or rather hundred and fifty, three freezers had thirty and then forty went to the Indians.

Mr. ENGLISH.—Well, there was about seventy white men, do you draw the line at colour?

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well you do in fish—you put up nothing but red salmon (laughter) however, do you think Indians entitled to fish and get licenses?—I do certainly—the same as other men.

Q. Are they not employed in the canneries—do you not employ them?—A. Yes; I have one Indian who has fished for me ever since I had a license, but generally I do not think it does Indians any good if all get licenses—I don't think it good to give them too much money.

Q. Then, why do you employ them?—A. Because we have to—we cannot import labour from the east and employ them for one or two months only. These people come from all parts of the country and bring all their belongings and fish for five or six weeks and then go home again—white people would not do this.

Q. Do you furnish Indians with gear and money to get licenses?—A. Oh, yes; we furnish them in everything—grub, nets and everything else.

Q. Is it the habit of sending Indians to the departmental office for licenses, and that the Indians are still under the control of the canneries?—A. Well, I have heard it but don't know of it. I have gone there myself and made application and paid money for licenses for Indians, but only in one or two cases.

Q. Do you employ Indians and whitemen outside of your own boats at day pay, or on shares?—A. Whitemen have a "lay" or share and Indians we pay by day wages.

Q. Do you give them the full market value of the fish?—A. I make a bargain with them before we begin.

Q. What was the price last year?—A. I paid six and a half cents and reserved the rest for gear—Mr. Ewen was paying 20 cents.

Q. What did you pay outside licenses?—A. Some I paid twelve and a half cents, some fifteen.

Q. Then the difference between these men with a "lay" and outside men would be about one-half?—A. About one-half.

Q. And if these people who had a "lay" had licenses they would have got twelve and a half or fifteen cents?—A. Yes; if I wanted the fish.

Q. Then the difference between men who get licenses and those who do not is one-half?—A. No; he has to get his gear.

Q. But as to the price of fish?—A. Oh, yes; but he may lose a net the first night, if he has a "lay" I have to give him another net.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. What is the price of a net and boat?—A. The boat and outfit about \$50 or \$60, the net about \$90.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. How long do nets last?—A. Generally only during the sockeye run.

Q. And the outfit for a fisherman would be about \$150?—A. I would say from \$150 to \$175.

Q. Have you taken any observations, or can you express an opinion in regard to the operation of the hatchery and artificial breeding of fish as a benefit to the river?—A. Well, I certainly think it a benefit; I have an idea that the increase in the last three or four years—that the hatchery has something to do with it—of course I don't know, but I don't see, though, how anybody can help thinking it a benefit.

Q. Have you any knowledge if it is a benefit elsewhere on the coast?—A. I know it has been beneficial on the Sacramento River; the fisheries there were totally ruined by mountain deposits covering the spawn, and they were replenished by the McKay Hatchery, and the catch of fresh fish there is now very great.

Q. Then you think artificial breeding of fish an advantage?—A. Why, I certainly do. When first I came to this coast there was no shad—now there is plenty of them on the Pacific coast.

Q. You know, as a matter of fact, that shad are now disposed of in the markets of San Francisco, and that they were not indigenous to the waters of the Pacific?—A. Plenty of them, and there was not a shad here before; I don't think there is any doubt as to the success of the artificial fish culture.

Q. Do you think the system should be extended?—A. Yes; I think there should be hatcheries on the Thompson, Fraser and Harrison Rivers.

Q. Well, now, what do you think of offal?—A. I think the best thing you can do with offal for all concerned is to put it in the river.

Q. As you do at present?—A. Well, it might be improved upon by putting it in deeper water; at present it is put on the bank in some places, but if put in deep water it will be taken away. The canneries are generally built near the water, or over it, so as to accommodate steam-boats coming up to the factory. At my place we have plenty of water; we loaded two ships there this summer.

Q. You are the last cannery down the river?—A. No; there are two below me. I don't think offal can be handled differently; if it can be profitably, cannerymen would be only too glad to handle it, and you cannot do anything by putting it on land; it would drive people out.

Q. Is it not used now in an oil factory?—A. Yes; but I don't think they are doing much with it; the cannerymen would gladly transport it if any one would take it.

Q. Do you think it wise of the Government to encourage capital to come here to dispose of offal?—A. Well, if on the east coast it might be profitable, but I don't think it would be here.

Q. Do you always find packing fish profitable?—A. Well, one year I lost \$17,000.

Q. Other years you have made profits?—A. Well, we could not lose all the time; I think I have about as much as I started with, and have got a living all the while.

Q. When you first commenced salmon canning here was it profitable?—A. It was very profitable the first year; the second year it was unprofitable, but we did not understand it.

Q. Well, but don't you think this oil factory would be profitable when they learn how to work it?—A. Well, I don't think there is enough oil in it (*i. e.* the offal) to make it profitable.

Q. Well, but your local Government here is trying to encourage Crofter immigration, and one of the features is this industry of converting the offal into oil, &c., now, would there not be a big field for their operations?—A. Well, there would be lots of offal anyway, but there is not enough oil in offal to work profitably—the oil is in the fish, not in the offal.

Q. Do you know the menhaden or herring of the Atlantic Coast?—A. I know the herring here—I don't know the menhaden.

Q. Well, all along the coast of the United States on the Atlantic seaboard they have sixty or seventy large canning establishments to catch herring for turning them into oil and making fertilizers? A. Well, they would have markets for it there, but I don't think it could be profitably employed here.

Q. What do you think of it (*i. e.*, offal) as regards health?—A. I think for a sanitary purposes it should be put in the river—all light stuff would be eaten by fish. The heads and tails would never rise to the surface—the current is so strong it takes them all out.

Q. If it lodges along the bays and sloughs is it not offensive?—A. Well, sometimes, if decayed—all animal matter is when in that state.

Q. Have you heard of diseases being encouraged by these deposits?—A. I have not heard of it—in 1882 I had camps with four or five hundred persons in it, and Indians, you know, are not generally very clean—whitemen were there too, but I didn't see any sickness resulting from it.

Q. Do you think the white population would be more sensitive to it?—A. Well, they are more sensitive to anything of that kind.

Q. Can you suggest anything to do with this offal?—A. Put it in deep water.

Q. This is not generally done now?—A. No.

Q. Are canners desirous of putting it in deep water?—A. Oh, I think so—it would be a tax upon them but they would have to stand that—they have generally to stand everything that comes along, even the Government.

Q. Is this offal frequently taken in nets at the mouth of the river?—A. Well, I have so heard it stated here, but I never heard it complained of—I suppose sometimes they catch a little in their nets.

Q. What makes nets get useless after one season?—A. Slime off fish and the hot weather.

Q. Then if slime off fish and heat of the weather injures nets, would not an additional amount of it injure them more?—A. Well, you don't get much slime from the offal—I never heard any of my men complain—I have had men fishing in the river for the last fifteen years and never heard it.

Q. And then nothing but the heads and tails and bony parts would get in the nets?—A. Yes; nothing else. I have seen Chinamen go with a bucket where the offal was going in and get a bushel and a half of suckers and small fish that were feeding on the offal, in a very short time.

Q. So you think then that offal is not injurious to man, or the fish in the river?—A. No; not if put in the deep river—we had a camp on one side of us and an Indian camp on the other—we drink Fraser River water and my family never had any sickness—but the only way is to put it in the channel of the river.

Q. And you think cannerymen are prepared to do that?—A. I think they are quite willing to do anything that is right.

Q. You know then that it has been contrary to law?—A. Yes; but by permission of the department it has not been contrary to law.

Q. Was the refuse thrown in last year?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And no permission to do so?—A. Yes; I think so—I think the Minister gave permission to suspend the regulation.

Q. No; not so?—A. Well, I think, if I am not mistaken, the department wrote the Inspector that the throwing in of offal last year would be allowed, like in 1890.

Q. I may say that you are in error in that respect, because I know that it was not granted. You think the only way then is to put it in the deep channel of the river?—A. Yes.

Q. And that there it would be harmless?—A. Well, I don't say it is harmless—it might do good. The Chinamen in the factory are all fat fellows and I think the sweet smell in the cannery makes the cannerymen fat, (laughter.)

Q. Well, you are certainly a good specimen, (laughter) Well, what do you think of the effects of saw-dust in the streams?—A. Well, I think it is injurious—they have laws in the United States to prevent saw-dust going in—I always understood it hurts fish by getting in their gills.

Q. Well, but they also have laws in the United States that offal shall not go into the rivers either?—A. Well, but where do they can anything but oysters.

Q. Washington, Oregon, &c.?—A. Well, but they don't enforce it—I know they throw offal in and I have heard that young salmon hatch from where the offal is thrown in.

Q. Oh, well, that is so far beyond a possibility and next to an absurdity that we will not discuss it—eggs could not be hatched unless ripe?—A. Well, it might have been ripe—I have been told by parties who have seen it that young fish come from where offal was thrown in.

Q. Do you think it a proper principle, that of transferring licenses?—A. Oh well, I don't think it makes any difference to the department whether a man sells his license or not.

Q. The department makes nothing out of it—it is the public?—A. Well, nor to the public—I think perhaps after all it might be better to have licenses not transferable.

Q. What do you think of the equality of fees—should they be alike everywhere?—A. I think they should all be uniform—all the fishermen uniform with canners, and each should be uniform among themselves.

Q. What are your views as to fishing limits on the Fraser River?—A. Well, I don't think that makes any difference to the department—I think things in that line should remain as at present—I don't think there would be any fishing above Stave River.

Q. But you must not say "any difference to the department;" the department is simply the mouth-piece of the public?—A. But the department is holding this commission for the public.

Q. What do you think of the close season?—A. I think the close season correct, and ample for the protection of the salmon.

Q. What do you think of it from the stand-point of morality?—A. Well, I don't think you should change it; the present Sunday close season is quite right, and a man can be quite good enough from Saturday night until 6 o'clock Sunday night. I have seen men come out of church and pile up hay; I don't think these fellows that are always too good are always the best; there are half a dozen ways of being good; you can be too good, you know.

Q. And you can be too bad?—A. And you can be too bad. (Continuing). I think all these fish, you know, return in the shape of offal, whether they are killed or not (referring to the numbers that die up river.)

Q. You are a member of the Board of Trade?—A. The Board of Trade of Westminster? Yes.

Q. Are you aware of what generally transpires there?—A. No; I am not a good attendant.

Q. It is a public body?—A. It is composed of merchants here.

Q. No; fishermen?—A. Well, not unless you call us fish traders.

Q. Have you read a document from a public officer regarding matters on the Fraser River?—A. Yes; I have read the document.

Q. Are you aware in what it says that exaggerations and misstatements were made?—A. Yes; I think it is very much exaggerated, especially the cut you made.

Q. Well, that officer made the statement that five cans were made out of an eight pound salmon?—A. Well, I don't say fish are all eight pounds; some are, but many are less, and then you must remember all the salmon we catch don't go into cans, and the waste as given is too much.

Q. Three pounds out of eight?—A. Well, I don't know that it is; your cut was misleading.

Q. Oh, but I see (looking over report British Columbia Board of Trade), this is from the Board of Trade of Victoria; do you belong to that?—A. No; it is the Board of Westminster I belong to.

Q. Well, here is this statement that that report was exaggerated, and yet every member who has come before us and sworn has borne out those statements. Have you anything else, sir, to say?—A. No; I don't think so at present; if I think of anything again, I will come before you.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes; if any new matter that is important, it would be a good thing to get one man to represent you in any new matter and let him come before us.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well, that will do, Mr. English.

Mr. DAVID MELVILLE addressed the Commission, and requested permission to make a statement, which was allowed.

Mr. MELVILLE.—I wished to say that there are eight persons who came to the country—some before me, and some after, from Scotland, who have gone back because they could not get a license.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Are you aware of your own knowledge that they came here to become residents and fish?—A. Yes; two came with me—some applied twice, some three times, and some that were fishermen in Scotland went back to fish there.

Q. You have stuck to it here?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you attribute that to the improper way the licenses are distributed at present?—A. Yes; because we cannot get them.

Q. You have nothing further to say?—A. No; nothing else.

Q. Very well, sir, that will do, your statement is duly recorded.

The Commission was thereupon declared adjourned by the Chairman at 12.15 p.m., to meet again at the same place at 10 a.m., on 25th February.

Mr. Commissioner Wilmot and Mr. Winter, secretary, spent the afternoon in visiting the fish hatchery at Bon Accord, returning to Westminster about 6.30 p.m.

6th Day's Session.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., 25th February, 1892.

The Commission assembled in the Court house and was called to order by the Chair at 10.15 a.m.

Present:—Mr. S. Wilmot, presiding: Mr. Sheriff Armstrong, Mr. C. F. Winter, secretary.

JOHN WAGNER, of New Westminster, a native of Canada, four years resident in British Columbia, and a fisherman, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Now, Sir, have you anything special to relate?—A. Well, only as regards Captain Grant's license. I understand that it has been stated here that I bought a license from Captain Grant and paid \$50 for it.

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By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. No ; What has been said is that a man bought a license from Captain Grant and paid him \$50 for it?—A. Well, when I was going down the river fishing Captain Grant and I have been good friends ever since I have been in the country, and he was going away to Vancouver, and would not be able to use his license, and he asked me if I could not arrange with some fisherman to take it on shares, and he told me he would want about the seventh fish for the use of the license, and after I went down I found it very difficult to get any fishermen to give them—they said it was too much—and I looked around for over a week and could not get any one to take it, and in the meanwhile the man who stated it here was a partner of mine, and I reasoned the thing that unless my partner and I took up the license and worked it no one would do so, and we thought it the best thing to go and get a net and rig it up the same as the canneries and take one-third for our share and give two-thirds for running it. I went to Mr. Ladner and got a boat and we gave it to a man to work, but he only caught one humpback or so and I took it away from him, but the other man did better, and when we wound up there was about \$90 over, after paying for the net and all. Then when we came up I reasoned with Nellis (?) and thought the least he could give Captain Grant for the use of his license was \$50, and thought that he should give \$50. Well, he thought it too much, but I thought Captain Grant should get this much, so we took \$20, apiece and gave Captain Grant \$50.

Q. It is true that he paid you \$25 for half of Grant's license?—A. Oh yes ; out of the \$90 the gear made—that is exactly the statement I have to give.

MR. GRANT.—(from the audience). Oh not so, he paid me.

MR. ARMSTRONG.—No ; he didn't.

MR. GRANT.—Well, I thought that was it.

MR. WILMOT.—Are you a practical fisherman?—A. Well, I have been fishing for three years.

Q. With licenses of your own?—A. Yes, for two years of my own.

Q. Where else have you been fishing?—A. In the Island of Cape Breton.

Q. Can you give an idea of the quantity of fish taken during each year?—A. Well, the first year I fished for the British Columbia cannery I think we put in eight thousand fish.

Q. What year was that?—A. That was three years ago, '89.

Q. A good year?—A. Yes, sir ; that was a big year here.

Q. What did you catch fishing here that year?—A. Well, a little over nine thousand—I had a better outfit.

Q. That is you and your help-mate in the boat?—A. Yes ; we could have taken more, but the canneries limited us—they could not handle them.

Q. Well, but those that they could not handle, what did you do with those?—A. But we don't fish then, sir.

Q. You were notified before hand?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What did you get for fish in '89?—A. Ten cents apiece—we had to allow the cannery for the boat and net—we got about six and a half cents.

Q. In '89, however, you got eight thousand fish and sold them for ten cents each?—A. Yes ; one third to the cannery and six and a half cents to myself and partner.

Q. What was the buying price of fish that year?—A. 10 cents, sir.

Q. In '90 you had a boat of your own and you caught nine thousand fish?—A. About 9,000.

Q. How much did you get for those?—A. Ten cents.

Q. How much in 1891?—A. I didn't fish for the canneries at all last year.

Q. Did you fish at all?—A. Yes ; in the spring, but fish run so bad I could not make wages out of it and having a family I quit it and went to other work.

Q. Do you fish night and day?—A. Yes : we call it tide work—when the tide suits we go.

Q. When the cannerymen have their own men employed will they work a greater number of hours than ordinary fishermen?—A. Yes ; I think they do—they go out at an early hour in the morning and again at night.

10c—10½

Q. Then one boat in the cannery has two sets of men to work it, while the ordinary fisherman has but one?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. That is an advantage, then, over ordinary fishermen?—A. Well, I think so.

Q. But would this favour cannerymen, or men working alone?—A. Well, I think cannerymen would have the advantage, because a man has got to sleep some time.

Q. When working in 1890 you caught 9,000 salmon; have you any idea what a boat similarly situated, but working with two sets of men, would have taken in the same time?—A. Well, they should have put in more if working as much as contract men would; they should have caught fully one-third more.

Q. Well now, those eight and nine thousand salmon you caught, what would they average?—A. Well, I think the first year they did not run as large as the second year I fished.

Q. But in 1889—were they big fish?—A. They were mixed; but I think would be about six pounds.

Q. What in 1890?—A. About the same.

Q. Have you ever weighed fish?—A. No, sir.

Q. How do you come to the conclusion that they would be six pounds?—A. Well, we never weigh them; we count them when giving them in to the canneries.

Q. Well, would a conclusion of seven or eight pounds be incorrect?—A. No; I would not think so; I never weighed them; I have handled many fish east, and might judge them before, but I could not say exactly about the salmon.

Q. Then your average for three years would be about eight or nine thousand; would that be a fair average for boats working along with you?—A. Yes; I think that would be about the average.

Q. How many have you known to be taken with one boat for a season?—A. I have heard of as high as 11,000 fish taken in one year.

Q. And you think your catch would be about an average for fishermen who were industrious, and while you might get between eight or nine thousand, a cannery boat should have taken between one-third and one-half more?—A. Yes; provided they worked like us.

Q. Did you ever work in a cannery, or about one?—A. No, sir.

Q. Have you formed any idea about offal being thrown in?—A. Well, that is something I never gave much heed to, but if the offal is thrown in where the tide can take it away it would not be injurious, but it would be worse for nets and the fishermen—that is my opinion.

Q. Then it is not thrown into the channel now?—A. Not that I know of; it would be injurious to the nets; we get some of it in the nets now.

Q. Where do you fish?—A. At the mouth of the river, but it was up the river where the offal affected our nets.

Q. Do you know of any unpleasantness, offensiveness, or illness arising from offal being on the shore?—A. Yes; it throws off a very bad smell, but I don't know if it is injurious to health.

Q. Is it better to live in good air than foul?—A. Yes; I think so, but while it makes a bad smell I don't know as it is injurious to health.

Q. Do you think it has any effect on fish?—A. No, sir; I don't think it has any effect.

Q. Do you think saw-dust has a bad effect?—A. Well, I don't know—I know in the rivers at home where saw-dust and refuse from mills has been thrown in, the trout, once plentiful, have been driven away.

Q. Is there any offensive smell from saw-dust in the water?—A. Not that I know of.

Q. Do you know what effects there are from saw-dust in preventing the fish from going up?—A. No, sir; I don't, but I think if saw-dust is thrown in in large amounts, it must effect the fish, and if offal is thrown in it might have some effect perhaps—not on salmon but on other fish—I know, for on cod-fishing grounds if fishermen clean fish and leave it on the grounds, fish will all leave the grounds. I know of some of our best fishing grounds being spoilt by refuse being thrown on the grounds.

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Q. And the universal belief down east is that offal effects the fishing grounds?—A. Well, yes.

Q. Is there anything in the water here that would prevent the bad effects found in the east?—A. Well, the water is dirtier here.

Q. And more dirt added to it would help it, you think?—A. I don't think it would help it any.

Q. And do you think residents and British subjects should get licenses?—A. I think that all actual fishermen and residents and British subjects should get licenses.

Q. Would one license be sufficient?—A. Yes; I think so—where so many in the river.

Q. If one license would do the ordinary fisherman how many would you say for the largest allowance for a cannery?—A. I don't know, sir; you see I don't understand what it takes to carry their business on.

Q. Well, but if one boat produces 8,000 fish, then if twenty boats were fished at the same ratio that yours was they would get one hundred and sixty thousand fish. Do you know how many fish will make a case of canned fish?—A. No, sir; I have no idea—not the least. I never worked in a cannery—I never saw a case of salmon filled, except by going through a cannery—but that is all.

Q. It is said that it takes about ten or eleven—so that twenty men fishing like yourself that year would have produced 16,000 cases for a cannery at that rate of so many fish?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you any idea with regard to the effect of seining fish—whether seines are more injurious or less injurious for catching fish than gill nets?—A. Oh, yes; we blame seining for destroying the fish on our coasts at home—we used to have abundance of mackerel before Americans came, but after that the fish all left.

Q. What effect would a seine have if drawn at the mouth of a river—(seines)?—A. I think it would be injurious to fishing—it would take more fish than a gill-net, but I don't think it would suit the fishermen here. It takes the fish too much by surprise and the fish get frightened and leave the river. The seine draws everything within its reach—with a gill-net many escape, but the seine takes all kinds, big and little, and even fish they are not fishing for, and fish get killed, die, &c. I have fished about thirty years and think seining more injurious than the gill-net.

Q. Its effect in the mouth of a river—is that very serious?—A. Yes; I think it would be.

Q. Are the mesh of seines and gill-nets about the same size?—A. No, sir; seines have quite a small mesh and take big and little—everything within its reach.

Q. If seines were used for catching salmon along the coasts here, should the meshes be the same as the gill-net, if used for salmon alone?—A. Well, I don't think it would suit—they have generally smaller mesh.

Q. Why a smaller mesh?—A. Well, I have always seen smaller used.

Q. But if a gill-net is used at $5\frac{1}{8}$ for sockeye—a seine with three-inch mesh—would it be more destructive?—A. Yes; it takes so many more small fish—it would take both large and small.

Q. And gill-nets at $5\frac{1}{8}$ would take medium sized all through—a small fish would pass through?—A. Yes.

Q. What do you think of the Sunday close season, do you think it just?—A. Well, fishermen don't think it so well, but it suits cannerymen very well on account of getting away with fish on Saturday and cleaning up the cannery, &c., but it does not suit us fishermen.

Q. Why?—A. Well, we fishermen don't like to leave home Sunday night—the old law suited us better—from Saturday night to Monday morning.

Q. But if the cannerymen did not fish on Saturday and if you fished on Saturday what would you do with the fish?—A. We don't fish on Saturday.

Q. But if you did?—A. Well, if they would not take them why we could not fish for them, but what I alluded to is the fishermen would rather have the old law.

Q. All Sunday a close season?—A. Yes, to twelve o'clock Sunday night would be better.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. But if you fished on Saturday and the canneries took fish what would they do with them?—A. Well, they would have to work all day Sunday.

Q. And you only fish half Sunday—don't you think that better than the canneries working all day Sunday?—A. Well, I don't know—I speak from my view—I would prefer keeping the Sunday, if possible.

Q. Do you think it injurious to the canning industry if the close season is made from six o'clock Saturday to six o'clock Monday morning?—A. Well, I don't know.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Otherwise speaking, would they be able to get sufficient salmon from 12 o'clock Sunday night for the canneries to commence business on Monday?—A. Yes, I think they would. I know plenty of fishermen on this river who didn't go fishing until 12 o'clock and yet when they wound up they had just as many fish as those who commenced at 6 o'clock Sunday night. I have had to fish Sunday night myself—we have to do it.

Q. Then you think by having a law which allows one man to fish on Sunday night, it brings other men who don't like to fish into a bad habit?—A. If it can be avoided I think it a bad habit, but if it could be avoided I think it should be avoided.

Q. Have you any ideas as to an annual close season?—A. Well, I am not very well posted on that matter.

Q. Have you made any observations as to the effect of the artificial breeding of fish?—A. No, sir; none.

Q. You know there is a hatchery here—have you any ideas as to its benefit or otherwise?—A. I think it should not be otherwise than a benefit.

Q. Why?—A. Well, I think it would have a tendency to increase fish.

Q. What is your idea as to the value of boat licenses—should one part of the province have a discriminating fee in its favour—should all be alike?—A. I think all should be alike—a man on the Skeena or Naas should be in the same position as one on the Fraser river.

Q. Do you think that applies to canneries as well?—A. Yes, all licenses should be the same.

Q. Have you anything further to state?—A. No, sir.

Mr. ALEX. EWEN (speaking from the audience).—I would like to say that this gentleman says he only fished his license a short time in the spring—that goes to show that there are more licenses than are really worked.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, but the canneries are applying for double the number.

Mr. EWEN.—But it depends on the year—sometimes we don't require them, but often we do. This last witness says he only fished the license a short time—practically it may not have been fished the usual length of time.

(Voice from the audience, Mr. McLashan).—Yes, it was fished.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—No more interruptions now, please.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, if the man didn't fish the licenses himself he may have let it out on shares, etc.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Don't talk to him—not unless he is under oath. We cannot discuss matters this way.

Mr. EWEN.—I consider I am under oath yet.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, we don't want any dispute here or any arguments—I will not have it.

Mr. WILMOT.—And I think we should disabuse the minds of gentlemen that because they have taken the oath they are under oath for all time—the oath only applies to the time a man is giving his evidence.

JOHN ROSS, a resident of New Westminster for sixteen years, a native of Great Britain, and a fisherman for sixteen years, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Have you any special matter, Mr. Ross, that you wish to say in regard to licenses ?
—A. I have had licenses for the last two years.

Q. Where did you fish ?—A. At Sea Island on the North Arm.

Q. What depth of net did you use ?—A. Thirty meshes.

Q. Is that the usual net used there ?—A. Yes ; from twenty-five to thirty meshes.

Q. Is that the same sized mesh net Indians use ?—A. Yes.

Q. What quantity of fish have you taken there on an average at that point during a season ?—A. I have averaged between three and four thousand sockeye—we fish nothing else but sockeye down there.

Q. Are the fish that you get there disposed of to the canneries ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is the usual price ?—A. Sometimes ten cents—sometimes fifteen.

Q. What the last two years ?—A. Fifteen cents—Mr. Ewen was giving twenty, I believe.

Q. Out of the number of Indians on the ranch down there, what number get licenses ?—A. Ten.

Q. And if all obtained licenses ?—A. Thirty-four.

Q. Do all want licenses ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Would it be beneficial ?—A. Yes ; I think so—if no limitation all should get licenses.

By Mr. Armstrong :

But any Indian with no boat and net ?—A. Oh, well, of course if fishermen or Indians have no boats and nets they get them from the canneries and pay for them in fish.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Has a person who gets a license an advantage over those who have not ?—A. Yes ; of course they have, especially lately—years ago it was different—a man could make more by the day than on a license—that was when the river was open to everybody.

Q. Then men made more wages when the river was open to everybody than when a certain number of licenses was established ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How have you observed about offal—is it all thrown in at Sea Island ?—A. Yes, sir, I don't think it effects fish.

Q. How about men ?—A. I don't think it injures anybody—I have been about it for sixteen years.

Q. If the offal law was carried out it would effect you, would it not ?—A. I suppose you throw your offal in the same as the canneries ?—A. Oh, I don't know as it would—I would just as soon do anything with it if there was a rule.

Q. Is it not easier to throw it in the river ?—A. Oh, yes ; if a man cleans a fish for himself he just goes down and throws the offal in.

Q. Are fish as plentiful as years ago ?—A. I think they are more plentiful.

Q. Can you assign a reason for that ?—A. No ; I cannot—they are more abundant than years ago.

Q. You catch more of them ?—A. Yes ; and they are more abundant.

Q. Do you know anything of artificial breeding of fish ?—A. No, sir ; I don't know anything of that.

Q. Do you think it an advantage to have hatcheries established on the river ?—A. I think it would do good in course of time.

Q. What do you think of the Sunday close season ?—A. I think there should be a close season—the present one is about right as it is to everybody—the Sunday should be closed.

Q. You have something to do with Indians, have you not ?—A. I have had a good deal to do with them since I have been in the country.

Q. You are not officially connected with them in any way—interpreter or anything?

—A. No, sir; not at all.

Q. What do you think of granting licenses to everybody who applies for them?

A. I think it fair if there is no limitation.

Q. But if there is a limitation?—A. Oh, British subjects only.

Q. What about transferring licenses, is it right?—A. No, sir; I don't think it is—a man who gets a license should be an actual fisherman and employ his own boat and net.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Don't you think all should get licenses who have a boat and net of their own?

—A. I think so—yes.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What is your idea as to the fee for a boat, should it be the same to all fishermen?—A. Yes, all fishermen.

Q. And the same to fishermen and cannery?—A. Yes; all the same and the same on all rivers.

Q. You have been delivering fish to cannery—have cannery any advantage over you or men having a license for one boat by reason of having four men to work a boat?—A. No; I don't think it is.

Q. Then four men don't catch more fish than two?—A. No; they generally don't—men working by the day don't generally catch more than two men working by contract.

Q. But cannot four men relieve one another?—A. Yes; but men working by the day don't work as well as others.

Q. Then a boat with four men cannot catch more fish than a boat with two men? Additional men don't make any difference then?—A. I don't think it makes any difference.

Q. Rather hard on those who hire four men to do two men's work, is it not?—A. No; but they hire Indian labour to get the women and others to work in the cannery.

Q. But would the four wives of the four men be engaged in the cannery?—A. Yes; and the children too.

Q. Have you any idea with regard to the method of fish being put up in the canneries?—A. I don't understand you, sir, I have been around canneries all the while.

Q. Well, do you know of the system pursued when fish are brought to the canneries?—A. Yes, they are brought in scows to the wharf.

Q. What then?—A. They start to clean them on the wharf.

Q. Is it under cover?—A. Yes; they are thrown up from the boats and then cleaned.

Q. Are they just taken out from the pile and cleaned on a table?—A. Yes.

Q. What next occurs?—A. They are headed and gutted and passed over to another crowd—the heads are cut off and then the Klootchies take the fish and gut them—then they go through water and then they are cut up and these go to the salt table.

Q. What is done with the head, tail and entrails?—A. They go down to a crib below the cannery—it goes off the table into a hole and if there is no boat underneath it falls into the river.

Q. Are canneries built on piles?—A. Yes.

Q. The piles are pretty numerous?—A. Yes; but they generally have cribs underneath.

Q. Does the water go through these cribs?—A. Yes; they are made of planks.

Q. Does the water pass through?—A. Yes; the water passes through with the tide.

Q. What is the usual average size of sockeye?—A. From seven to eight pounds—some years they are bigger than others.

Q. When the heads and tails are taken off and the entrails taken out, how is the fish cut in pieces?—A. With a kind of long revolving knife.

- Q. Are they cut up to a special size?—A. They are cut to fit the cans.
- Q. How many slices of salmon would they get for cans?—A. Well, I could not say—four or five—about that according to the size of the fish.
- Q. But fish are all of the same size—very nearly, at least?—A. Well, I suppose so.
- Q. Now if any person should say that was not so, they would not be correct, would they?—A. I should not think so.
- Q. You are not giving an exaggerated account, are you. It is not misleading?—A. No, sir, I am giving an account as near as I know.
- Q. It is very interesting work, is it not, to see a cannery running?—A. Yes, sir.
- Q. What probable number of men would you think necessary to carry on the business when you catch four or eight thousand fish?—A. It depends on the size of the cannery—some have as high as 200—sometimes they cannot get the men on any consideration.
- Q. Of these 200 what number might be whitemen?—A. Well, some years—Ewen's is as big as any cannery on the river and he employs as many as he can get.
- Q. But would there be any others than for the retorts and bosses? How many of these?—A. Oh, eight, ten, twelve—the rest Klotchmen, Indians and Chinamen.
- Q. What principally?—A. Principally Chinamen.

By Mr. Armstrong :

- Q. Working inside?—A. Yes.
- Q. Don't you think there is as many Indian women and Indian boys as Chinamen in some canneries?—A. Well, no; they cannot get them, they get as many as they can.
- Q. Then you think about ten whitemen would be the proportion to the average cannery?—A. Yes.
- Q. Chinamen—do they fish outside?—A. No, sir.
- Q. Indians generally and whitemen?—A. Yes, sir, all colours—all nationalities.
- Q. What do you mean by "all nationalities"?—A. Well, Greeks, Italians, Chilians Sandwich Islanders, &c.
- Q. Would these be fishing on their own licenses?—A. Most of them fish on their own gear.
- Q. Say that a cannery having its 200 persons, employs about ninety inside—they would be Indian women, Chinamen, boys, &c., with about ten men to manage the whole thing inside and a number of boats fishing outside—or the cannery would be Italians, Greeks, and others—what would be the proportion of outside foreigners to the 200?—A. Well, I could not answer that. There is quite a number on the river.
- Q. Do you ever do any sea fishing?—A. No, sir.
- Q. Well, do you think the Indian Chief we had up made a mistake when he said there was not so many fish as there used to be?—A. Well, I don't know, the Indians always say that, but I don't think they really know.
- Q. Is there anything else you would like to put in?—A. No; nothing else.

Captain C. GRANT who had given evidence on the 20th February, (p. 81.) was recalled and sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

- Q. You have been a fishery guardian under the Government?—A. Yes, sir.
- Q. What was your beat of operations?—A. From Mr. Ewen's cannery up to Stave River.
- Q. Oh, your duties were not below—not down the river?—A. No, sir.
- Q. Who is guardian down there?—A. Mr. Green.
- Q. In your duties as guardian what course did you pursue to see that boats licensed by the department are only used?—A. The boats are numbered—they have numbers on the sides of the boat.
- Q. In starting out at six o'clock Sunday night, what is the course pursued?—A. Well, they get ready with boat and net about four or five o'clock and wait until six.

Q. Do all start out at once?—A. Oh, well, some will get out and lay on the oars ready to start.

Q. How do they know the time?—A. Most of them have watches.

Q. Are you supposed to be there?—A. Yes; I have known a case—three or four years ago—when a man started out at four o'clock. I had him brought up and he was fined accordingly.

Q. Are watches all kept pretty much alike?—A. Well, I would not like to say that.

Q. Have you known of any instance where a boat numbered in 1890 as a certain number would fish with the same or other number in '91?—A. Not as I am aware of.

Q. Are the numbers all put on each year?—A. Yes; I can tell if a number is new.

Q. But suppose a man got No. 18 license in '90 and might get No. 23 in '91—would he change the number?—Well, I don't know if he would.

Q. Well, how do you know if that is his right number?—A. Well, I get a book from the office, and I look at it and see if it is the same number.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. And the number of the license don't always correspond with the number on the boat?—A. No, sir; last year I saw a boat which did not agree with the book, and I asked him about it, and he said Movat had given him the license, and I hauled him up.

Q. But, for instance, if No. 18 was the boat and license last year and he got a license for the same boat this year No. 23, would the boat's number be changed?—A. Oh, yes; he would re-paint the number.

Q. Then the number of the license and the number on the boat corresponds every year?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. You have been a guardian how long?—A. Four years.

Q. During those four years has there been only one conviction for improper numbering?—A. Only two that I have had. I have to settle many quarrels and disputes, &c.

Q. What is the limit they have to fish apart?—A. The length of a net from one another. They very often get one ahead of the other and that is not according to law.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Do they generally leave one-third of the river open?—A. Well, yes; up here they do very well—perhaps not so well lower down.

Q. Is there any other guardian down the river except Mr. Green?—A. Mr. McDonald was last year on the North Arm.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Is that where the Indians fish?—A. It is the Arm on this side—the North Arm of the Fraser River—McDonald was guardian there—he takes in from down below here a piece all the way down to the mouth—I take from Mr. Ewen's cannery up to the head of Harrison Lake—I went up with the steam launch—generally Mr. Ewen's to Mission. I take in Pitt River and Stave River—Pitt River always.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Do you find many violations of the law?—A. No, sir; not many—sometimes little quarrels—they keep to the routine of their business.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. You are not troubled then with many infractions of the law?—A. Well, I am around, and these men would rather stop off at the proper time than lose boat and net.

Q. And that was the only case of seizure during your term of service—four years?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What was the decision of the Magistrate in this case of the boat and net?—A. Well, the man could not speak good English—he pleaded off—I think they telegraphed to Ottawa—I don't know exactly how they settled this.

Q. And was he fined any sum of money?—A. I think he was fined the expenses.

Q. Then the penalty was nothing?—The law is penalty so much and nets confiscated?—A. Oh, yes; I am wrong sir—I took some nets from a man of the name of Lecroix—I was sent up there and I found nets set across a creek, and I went to the Siwash and said what was he doing with nets—he said they were not his and belonged to a man up here, but he said they didn't belong to him, they belonged to the Siwash—and I hauled them (the nets) into the boat and brought them down—so they fined him, and he paid the fine.

Q. Then a system is pursued that a person who offends against the law—as far as your knowledge goes—he may have to pay the penalty of the court but pay no fine.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, you see the magistrate is generally lenient when a man does not understand English, &c.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Are you aware if any instructions came direct from Ottawa to let the man off?—A. No, sir; I gave it into the hands of the magistrate and he settled it.

Q. Well, what I want to show is persons violating the law they get off as easily as the cannors do about the offal—the law is of no avail?—A. Well, I don't know what the reason was—he was sick, I think, too.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, Mr. Chairman, I cannot agree with you—I think the law as regards fishing is as strictly carried out, as much as in any other country.

Mr. WILMOT.—I can understand that a citizen of the country here would naturally stand up for his mountains.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, there has been so little violation of the law that there has been few convictions.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. How long would it take you to go from Ewen's to the Mission?—A. Oh, four or five hours—it depends on the tide.

Q. Well, how can you tell if Sunday fishing is not done?—A. Well, of course I cannot see all the way at once—I do what I can and often I am out all night.

Q. Well, I only say this to show that it is absurd to have one man to attend to so many miles of river and expect the law to be carried out—how far is your beat?—A. Forty miles.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Oh, of course, it is impossible for him to be here and at Mission at the same time—there should be more guardians.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. You are on duty the whole season?—A. No, sir; I used to get on four or five months—this season I was to get seven months.

Q. What time do you commence?—A. About 26th March.

Q. And end when?—A. September—after that I go to the Hatchery.

Q. And how do you get up and down the river?—A. With the steam launch.

Q. It is possible there might be many infractions during the night as regards these numbers on the boats?—A. Well, there might be—I look pretty sharp during the night, but still there might be infractions.

Q. Numbers might be changed and you would not know anything about it?—A. Well, I generally look sharp after them—I know the men and the numbers—I get a book from the department with every man's name and number.

Q. But that does not prevent a man from having two numbers—well, that will do, unless you have something further to ask the witness, Mr. Armstrong?—A. No; I have nothing further.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well, that will do Captain Grant.

On the request being made by the chairman for any further witnesses now to come forward :

E. A. WADHAMS.—I would prefer giving my evidence to-morrow when Mr. Higgins is here.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, I don't think that is right—I think it a reflection upon the Commissioners present?—A. Oh, now ; I don't mean that, but I would like Mr. Higgins to be present.

Q. Well, but here are Commissioners appointed to come here, and if Mr. Higgins is not here it is not our fault—suppose Mr. Higgins is not here to-morrow—would you give your evidence at all?—A. Well, I would give it if my evidence is necessary—I only state it as a preference—if it is offensive, why—

Q. Oh, no ; it is not offensive—we simply state it because the court is now sitting?—A. Well, I understand that the evidence was given at our convenience somewhat.

Q. No, sir ; at the court's convenience—but we cannot delay the court?—A. I don't wish to delay the court—you see we had nothing to do here yesterday afternoon and we heard you were coming here to take evidence to-day.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—And we now have nothing to go on with this afternoon.

Mr. WILMOT.—And Mr. Higgins cannot get here until two o'clock to-morrow?—A. Well, as regards my own feelings I would prefer giving it before the whole board. I am willing to give it this afternoon—I have stated my wishes in the matter and I now leave myself in your hands, but would it put the Commission to inconvenience if I gave my evidence in Victoria.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, we do object to taking evidence on Fraser River fisheries in Victoria—I don't see why I should go to Victoria and hear evidence on Fraser River fishing and I am not going to do it if I can possibly avoid it, and I don't think the gentlemen engaged in business here are treating this part of the country fairly in insisting on going to Victoria to give their evidence, (suppressed applause from majority of audience.)

Mr. WILMOT.—Order, order, gentlemen, (continuing to Mr. Wadhams). Because, if a man tells the truth he can tell it here just as well as in Victoria, and if there are any influences being brought to bear it should be avoided and if those influences are at work to prevent a New Westminster man giving evidence here it should be prevented.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—We would like to have your evidence to-day.

Mr. WADHAMS.—I have been charged with discourtesy, but I don't think it all on one side—I am willing to give my evidence now.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, but, Mr. Wadhams, don't say we implied discourtesy?—A. Well, I was charged with discourtesy—I would rather give my evidence to the full board.

Q. Well, but you certainly did throw reflections on the two Commissioners here, for it seemed as if you thought they were incompetent?—A. Well, I will be willing to give evidence this afternoon—I am in the hands of the Commission.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well this Commission is adjourned until this afternoon at one o'clock.

The Commission adjourned at 12.10 p.m.

INTERMISSION.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.,
25th February, 1892.

Afternoon Session.

The Commission re-assembled and was called to order at 1.30 p.m.

Present :

Mr. Wilmot, in the chair ; Mr. Sheriff Armstrong ; and the Secretary.

E. A. WADHAMS, a native of the United States, but a resident of British Columbia since 1858, a salmon canner, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Would you like to put any views before this Commission?—A. Yes ; I would like to put some with respect to what—(hesitating).

Q. General views as regards the salmon industry and fisheries of British Columbia?—A. I prefer first to speak of the weekly close time. As now arranged it is generally acceptable to canners and we think there are reasons why it should not be changed. I think it would be apparent to any one when we commence operations on Monday, to get them (the fish) we have to send out boats on Sunday evening. The close time from six a.m., Saturday, until six p.m., Sunday, is acceptable, and I think extending the close time further would be very detrimental to the canners.

Q. You think it detrimental to Sunday night at twelve o'clock?—A. Yes ; they would have hardly sufficient fish to go on with on Monday, and if we have no fish to go on with on Monday it introduces labour troubles, because the men don't like to lose time on Monday, and if extended to twelve o'clock there would be a great deal of illegal fishing that could not be prevented, and so still more if extended to six a.m. Monday, and aside from that trouble it would introduce labour troubles in the cannery and in this connection I would say that the fishery guardians should be provided with steam launches in order to do effective work—where they only have row boats to get among the fishermen they cannot perform their duties at all.

Q. Then you think the weekly close time a correct one both in the interest of the canners and the community?—A. Yes ; of course some may have conscientious views about going out on Sunday—but canners would respect that—I don't think any one would make any one to go, though, of course, it is in their interest to go.

Q. The reason, Mr. Wadhams, why questions are put about Sunday to twelve o'clock is on account of views of persons that Sunday should not be broken—you think for all purposes, however, that it is better as it is?—A. I think so, decidedly.

Q. Have you any views as to an annual close season?—A. Well, I think canners would recommend it—that a certain part of the year should be kept as a close season—I don't think it very material in the interest of fish—that is, because most of them have gone up at mid-summer—I think that the recommendation of the canners was that the commencement of the season should be 1st March, ending 25th August, with a 5½ inch mesh, extension measure.

Q. That should be a close season?—A. No ; I have a memo. that I will give.

Q. You mean that would be the open season?—A. Yes.

Q. Then the annual close time?—A. The close season from first November to first March each year was the recommendation of the canners.

Q. For all fish?—A. For salmon.

Q. 1st November to 1st March—a close season for all purposes?—A. Yes ; of course they don't insist upon a close season at all, but that is our recommendation—1st March to 26th August—fishing to be allowed with mesh not less than 5½ inch mesh ;

that from 25th August to 25th September, both days inclusive, fishing be allowed with mesh not less than $7\frac{1}{2}$ inch mesh—and from 25th September to the 1st November, fishing be allowed with nets not less than $5\frac{1}{2}$ inch mesh again.

Q. Will you just explain, Mr. Wadhams, the object of the close season from 25th August to 1st March would it be for all fish? What fish would that cover, do you know, the spring salmon?—A. It would cover the spawning season of a great many of them.

Q. Of the spring salmon? Of the sockeye?—A. I think it would cover the spawning season of all the sockeye that would be caught down here on the lower river—now those that go into the interior on the head waters—it is not known—I would not venture an opinion as to what their spawning season is.

Q. But you think 1st November to 1st March would cover the operations of spring salmon?—A. Yes; and all sockeye that would be in the lower river.

Q. And Humpbacks?—A. Well, we don't consider them anyway.

Q. But they are here and may become an article of food?—A. Well, the close season at that time on the lower river would protect any fish.

Q. But would not 25th August to 1st November cover sockeye?—A. Yes; but that would be a period when we are fishing for spring salmon and not many sockeye would be going up at that time. The sockeye run is generally over on the 25th August.

Q. Then do I understand that spring salmon or "Quinnat"—you begin to catch them between the 25th August and 25th September?—A. Yes; we catch some before the sockeye run and some between the sockeye run and the "Cohoes"—of course they would not bear the use of the spring salmon at any time during the open season.

Q. Do you think that some spring salmon spawn after the first of September?—A. I don't know that.

Q. They usually do elsewhere—that is the reason I ask you?—A. Well, I know that some of them do, but whether all do or not, I don't know.

Q. Well, do you think sockeye spawn after 1st September?—A. A great many do.

Q. As regards the "Cohoe"?—A. They are still later.

Q. They would be protected after the 1st September?—A. Yes; I think protection then would cover the whole of them.

Q. Then why not say no fishing after 1st September for all these fish—would not that cover all? And on that basis the others would have opportunity to spawn—would they not?—A. I think that our view is that the fish that we would catch after the 25th August, although they would not spawn for some time later—they are hardly in condition.

Q. Yes; they are in a pregnant state?—A. Yes.

Q. Then these fish not good for eating, should they not be allowed to escape from all kinds of destruction to benefit the river afterwards? It would not effect the canner to stop fishing after 1st September?—A. Well, the only thing is "Cohoes" come in later—we think the close season of the month would allow of sockeyes that are laggards to go past.

Q. Then do you can large quantities of Cohoes?—A. Not usually—only when there is a scarcity of sockeyes.

Q. And for that purpose you want them free to be caught till the 25th September?—A. Yes.

Q. What proportion of canning establishments deal in Cohoes, or do they use them when sockeyes are plentiful?—A. Not many—last year I don't think any were canned at all.

Q. They are good fish for canning?—A. Ordinarily I don't think they are profitable to can, but with good markets and as we have the outfits we want to use them.

Q. Do they stand second in quality to the sockeye for commercial purposes?—A. Yes; about that—that is they are not equally as good.

Q. Is a large trade in regard to spring salmon done from 25th August to 25th September?—A. Not a large business, but some years they run more plentiful than others, and if plentiful several canneries usually pack them.

Q. Was it not the desire of canners that the system of artificial breeding should be applied to "Quinnat" at first?—A. I think so, but I think views varied on that point

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—my own views were that sockeye were our principal fish and that chief attention should be given to them because of their uniformity of colour—I think some think more notice should be given to spring salmon.

Q. On the Columbia River is not spring salmon more highly prized?—A. Yes; I think that is the only fish of the kind there.

Q. And they come in competition with your fish in the English markets?—A. Oh, the Columbia River fish are superior fish.

Q. And more cans can be made from one fish?—A. Yes; they are larger and I don't think on the Columbia River they are troubled with white salmon, while here most of our spring salmon are white.

Q. Can you give any reason why some should be white and some red?—A. Well some have a theory.

Q. Well, what is the theory?—A. It is they change colour when coming into fresh water—it is supposed that the spring salmon come into the Gulf of Georgia and remain there some time in brackish water and so lose their colour.

Q. But, would the Gulf of Georgia be brackish water—the Fraser River runs in there—the Columbia River runs out into sea, salt water—would not salmon play about the Gulf as at the Columbia River?—A. Well, I think the Gulf of Georgia would be more impregnated with fresh water than the mouth of the Columbia River.

Q. Well, I think the theory would hardly hold good?—A. Well, I would not be disposed to defend the theory myself.

Q. No; it is a peculiarity; and as this Commission is formed in order to get all information possible on the subject, and as canners, &c., have asked for a Commission for that purpose, you will not mind questions of this character. It is remarkable that spring salmon here are not taken on account of their colour, while in the Columbia River they are thought the best?—A. Yes; but fish on the Columbia River are all of good colour.

Q. Then you think that both white and red and the sockeye should be protected after 25th September?—A. Well, we recommend the fishing until November—that permits the catching of cohoes.

Q. If you fish until 1st November it will cover the exact spawning time of any fish you have mentioned—mostly of spring salmon, generally of sockeye, and wholly of cohoes? Either the actual spawning time or times when they are far advanced in pregnancy. Now the spawning time we are talking of would not apply to the river till spawning is done in fluvial portions of the river and lakes. Have you any other remarks to submit?—A. No; not with regard to that. The next subject I would like to speak of would be the hatchery. My views are favourable to it—I think that we have already received benefit from it.

Q. And do you think it would be a benefit to increase the number of hatcheries on branches of the Fraser and elsewhere in the province?—A. I think it would be desirable to establish branches in the head waters of the Fraser River and its tributaries and by so doing we would probably get an early run. The present method is we get the salmon that come into the river in September—well, that is practically the later part of the run, and it seems to me as though the experience of the last two years rather shows that. In '89 the run came in very late, so late that many of the canners were very much alarmed, and the same last year before the sockeye came in. I think if we went to the head waters and established hatcheries there we would be more apt to get the fish that come into the rivers earlier and so introduce the fish that come in earlier.

Q. Would not that apply to spring salmon as well?—A. Very likely it would. We have a run of spring salmon say from March until the sockeye come in, but in April and May they come in pretty plentiful and not so many white salmon among them.

Q. Then if earlier fish were caught and bred, you would probably get earlier fish again?—A. Yes.

Q. And you think more hatcheries should be constructed?—A. I do; now my catch in '91 was in the neighbourhood of 12,000 cases, fully fifty per cent more than before. Of course we consider the fish come into the river in cycles of four years.

Q. Would your name appear on the reports of '90 "Wadham" or the syndicate?—A. No; as "Wadhams" in '90, but I am referring to four years previous to '91. In '87, I think, I packed a few cohoes in that year—that was a scarce year—

Q. Did you pack as many in '91 as '90?—A. Well, not quite—I packed nearly 12,000 cases last year.

Q. In '89 you packed 17,000?—A. Yes, sir; that was a big year.

Q. And away back in '86 you packed 14,000?—A. Yes, sir; the cycles come every four years.

Q. And the same way in small runs?—A. Yes; that is our experience.

Q. In '88 your pack was 5,720 cases and you look forward then to '92 as a small run?—A. Yes; a small run.

Q. If it turns out you get as many as in '90 and '89, what conclusion would you come to?—A. Well, I think it would be conclusive evidence that it would be brought about by the hatchery.

Q. Well, although I may be said to be the father of this industry on this continent, I must say you are almost prepared to go farther than I am?—A. Well, I would not say it would be conclusive, but I think it would show good proof.

Q. What question next?—A. The matter of offal. The prevalent opinion now is that offal as now handled by the canners is not injurious to the salmon.

Q. How about the inhabitants?—A. Well, we think if it was deposited in deep water it would be the very best practical disposition that could be made of it.

Q. You think if put in deep water it would be less injurious than at present?—A. Well, of course a good deal of it is put in now in deep water.

Q. And you think if the Government would consent to your putting it in the channel of the river—the canners would be willing to put it there?—A. If it was just considered the channel of the river, of course, or put in deep water where there is a current—I think that would enable people—that is the canners—to extend shoots right from their canneries.

Q. The channel of the river is pretty well laid out for steam-boat navigation is it not?—A. Well, yes; but I would not meet their view of putting it in the channel—and that would be a long way from the canneries. We think it would be covered if we put it in deep water where there is a current.

Q. But six feet of water would not be either channel or deep water, or a strong current?—A. No; probably not at all points.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Do you mean to put it in six feet of water, as near the canneries as you can get that six feet of water?—A. Well, yes; most of the canneries, or as many as I think of now, shoots could be rigged where they could put it in with that depth of water, or ten feet.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. But are not some canneries built where there are twenty feet of water?—A. Yes.

Q. And some six feet of water?—A. Well, I don't know if any have so little as that, most have twelve feet of water.

Q. What is the present system of dumping offal away now?—A. Well, it is by having shoots from the cleaning tables, the offal drops into those shoots and it goes into the water, these shoots are on an incline descending into the channel of the river. I don't say the canners would comply with my views. We might speak of a channel, but when we say the channel for a ship, they would of course select the deepest water, but very few canneries would comply with that.

Q. Then the putting in of offal, as described by you, would be somewhat similar to that you are doing at present?—A. At many places possibly there may be some canneries that could not comply with what I have suggested.

Q. They could not comply with putting it in a channel of six, eight, or ten feet?—A. No.

Q. Have you any knowledge with regard to the existence of an oil factory consuming a portion of the offal?—A. I know there is one.

Q. Do you know anything of its operations—successful or otherwise?—A. I would not undertake to express an opinion, because others will be able to speak on that point from the book, as it may be.

Q. But, do you think it possible for cannery to convey their offal to some factory that might be constructed for the manufacture of this oil?—A. I do not, except at great loss.

Q. How do you know unless it is tried?—A. Well, it has been tried on the Columbia River where fish are much more rich in oil than here, and I think if there were many oil factories established on the river there would be a great many more complaints than against the canneries at present.

Q. From what cause?—A. They are more offensive—from smell, &c.

Q. Are they more offensive from pollution of the water, &c.?—A. I never visited this factory.

Q. Is it not a fact that all animal and vegetable matters are extracted from the offal and made into marketable goods, oils, &c., and that what is left would be small, light, &c., in body, and not having those component parts that make them unhealthy to water and make it unsuitable for man?—A. I never visited this oil factory, but I have often smelt it at half a mile when going up river.

Q. Then you think it injurious to put offal elsewhere than the canneries do at present, and that if put in the centre of the river it would be equally unprofitable to cannery?—A. If we had to take soundings and places in the deepest part of the channel, I don't think it would be.

Q. Oh, but the channel is not in one little line, on the contrary, it would cover many hundred feet, I am not wrong, am I?—A. Yes; the channel would be quite large, but I think that offal anywhere put in six or eight feet of water in a flowing stream would not be offensive from a sanitary view.

Q. But if put in the channel would not the current carry it away to sea?—A. Yes; but if put anywhere where a current, it would do as well.

Q. But would it not be much more slow in going out than if put in the channel?—A. Yes; in the lower river, some places.

Q. And if it took so many hours to go down in mid channel, where the current is strong, it would take just so many more hours in shallow water than in a deeper channel and do more injury and pollution in a long passage, would not that be reasonable?—A. Well, I don't know as it would be delayed more.

Q. It would be a longer time in becoming decomposed?—A. Yes. It would be a longer time in becoming decomposed?—But in all canneries down below, it would not be a matter of hours in taking offal down.

Q. Where is your cannery?—A. At Ladner's Landing, but it might be contended that the proper channel for me to deposit offal would be Woodward Slough, a mile from my cannery. Of course I could put my offal in the steam-boat channel opposite the Landing, but I would not like the department to say that I should put it in the channel at Woodward Slough. (Mr. Wadhams here proceeded to show the situation of his cannery upon a map and explained where in his opinion the current would carry offal from his cannery).

Mr. WADHAMS.—Right at my cannery I could put it into ten or twelve feet at low water.

Mr. WILMOT.—How wide is the river at your cannery?—A. About a mile. It would cost very much if I had to handle it out to the deep channel.

Q. Then you think there should be no great change from what you do at present?—A. Well as long as it is put in the current.

Q. And from that are we to draw the inference that some canneries are throwing it in where there is no current?—A. Well, there may be some canneries where there is no more water than that, not swift water.

Q. And the conclusion is that you think offal should be allowed to be thrown in?—A. I think that any cannery that deposits its offal in deep water, where there is a current, it is making as good a disposition of it as practicable.

Q. You are aware that a statutory enactment says offal shall be kept out of the water?—A. Well, of course, but I think it is for the department to think that the Fraser River is a large stream and that it takes very much offal to have any effect.

Q. Are you aware of how it acts on the Columbia River?—A. The Columbia River is a much larger river.

Q. And I suppose you are aware they forbid it there?—A. Oh yes; and that is all, well, I think that goes to show they don't consider salmon offal deleterious. I don't think it has been contended or claimed that offal of salmon is deleterious, although persons here consider it is. I don't think salmon offal is deleterious, now, I have been on the Columbia River myself some years and I never heard it claimed that salmon offal was deleterious to salmon.

Q. I don't think that is contended, but it does effect them to a certain degree, because when salmon come in to go to the breeding places they will go against every possible obstacle?—A. Well, of course I don't want to draw any unnatural inference.

Q. Well, I merely mention it to show that in Oregon and Washington they pass a law that no deleterious substances should go in?—A. Well, I cannot concede the point that salmon offal is deleterious. Now, the question of licenses, formerly cannery had 40 licenses each.

Q. Before the regulation? (limitation)?—A. No; under the regulation. Now, they have been reduced from time to time until last year it was 20. We don't consider that is enough for our industry. The cannery have asked that they shall have 25 and that that amount be a fixed number, so as not to be reduced on other years.

Q. Well, we will lead up to the question whether 20 boats are not sufficient for you?—A. I think not.

Q. Are you sure 20 boats would not suit your purpose?—A. Well, I know that ordinarily it would not begin to suit me—last year, as I said, I packed in the neighbourhood of 12,000 cases and I had 50 boats—that is cannery boats and outsiders. Of course that is not packing up to near one's capacity.

Q. What number of boats do you consider sufficient to carry on a legitimate trade and pack 15,000 cases?—A. Well, the run varies so in different seasons that it is hard to say.

Q. They have not varied much in last three seasons—have they?—A. Well, the last I don't think was half what it was.

By Mr. Armstrong :

I think you asked him how many boats would be necessary—could you answer that question?—A. Well, we consider that 25 boats, at least, are necessary—I think that ordinarily one season with another that would not begin to fill 15,000 cases. Of course, some individual fishermen make large catches—much larger than any fishermen I have ever had. Of course fishermen in cannery boats—we usually do it with Indians and they don't catch as many fish ordinarily as men who fish their own boats—now, formerly I had 40 boats and I fished them. That was before the limitation was put on and at that time I would employ 160, principally Indians. Of course, I think that it is desirable to look after the Indians somewhat and although they form habits of industry, save their money pretty well, &c. : I think they are just as worthy of encouragement—perhaps, not as much as another—but they are worthy of all encouragement, and I think we cannery having control of licenses throw a good deal of work to Indians which otherwise they would not get and when they very often would be a tax upon the province or Government, and if they work they are more apt to maintain good habits than if they are indolent.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Yes : you would encourage Indian labour altogether?—A. Largely at least, yes : but 25 boats would not give cannery all the fish they want—many contend it would, but they are mistaken, because last year I had 50 boats and did not get near enough.

Q. How many fish make a case, 8, 10 or 11, or what?—A. Well, it varies from a little less than 10 to as high as 13.

Q. Would 10 cover the average?—A. I don't think it would—I think it nearer 11.

Q. What is the average size of salmon?—A. Well, I never weighed many salmon.

Q. But you have handled them for many years?—A. Well, about six and a half or seven pounds, I should think.

Q. But it is generally considered that eight pounds is the average, is it not?—A. Well, I think it an over-estimate—a man goes fishing, you know, and he tells big tales. We know the number of fish we catch in a season and the number of cans we make.

Q. Well, ordinarily speaking, how many cans will you get from a salmon—four or five? Or what number, usually speaking—give us rough figures?—A. It would not be in excess of four—sometimes it might be more but not much—on these “off” years, as they are termed, when we have fewer fish, they will average a little larger in size.

Q. And then they will average about five cans?—A. Yes: about that, and again in good years the fish will be smaller—fishermen and canners like to see fish coming in small.

Q. Well then, with a good run you can count upon eight pounds to the fish and you get five cans?—A. Well, I don't know whether they weigh eight pounds or not. We would get about five cans to eight pounds—in packing we always give a little more.

Q. How much more to the can?—A. Well, we put in a fraction of an ounce over the pound.

Q. Would it run two ounces?—A. Oh no: perhaps an ounce—even less—it is hard to say—we give good weight.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. You don't weigh them do you?—A. Well, I do myself.

Q. Do you?—A. Yes: we test it pretty thoroughly. I may say the canners think in all fairness they should receive 25 licenses and cannot conceive any reason why they should not have them. The canneries, of course they are the principal utilizers of the fish—they are the class, which if it was not for the canneries the outside fishermen would have but little sale for their fish, and outside fishermen, of course, personally, their only way of getting their fish utilized is by sale to them.

Q. Then if you gave an ounce on every can you would be giving away 160,000 pounds of fish?—A. Well, we want to give full weight and a little more.

Q. Well, I think you should advertise that—it would be a good advertisement—would it not? That you give away 160,000 pounds of fish? Well, you think if an eight pound fish it would give you five cans—the balance? this would be offal—would it not?—A. Yes, it would be. I would not want to estimate all this difference, &c.

Q. Yes: but you say yourself the average of fish would be seven or eight pounds?—A. My idea is the average would be from six to eight pounds.

Q. Well then, the average would be seven?—A. As I say, my average is 13 fish to the case and some years a little less than 10—on short years the fish will average larger than on big years—I have not weighed these fish.

Q. No: but if you take the eight pound fish for argument and you make five cans, there would be three pounds left, would there not?—A. Certainly: I would think so.

Q. What would be the average catch of your boats in a season—some fishermen have said they catch four or five thousand, and even as high as 10,000?—A. Well, my fishermen don't do as well as that.

Q. As 5,000 you mean, or 4,000?—A. I don't think they averaged 3,000; of course, if I were home, I could give you exact figures.

Q. Oh yes, but I was simply asking; fishermen have come here and stated they catch these big figures—4 to 10 thousand—and average at 3,000 would be small with all these big figures.—A. Well, take even a big year; an average of 200 fish to the shift where you employ day labour is a big average.

Q. Well, suppose there are 30 boats fishing and they catch 3,000 salmon each during the season, that would be 90,000 salmon and that would give you 18,000 cases, would it not?—A. Well, you have the figures; I don't know.

Q. Well, simply multiply 3,000 by 30, and we must take some standard, a 6 pound fish or 8 pound fish, call it 8 pounds, now with 10 fish to a case, that would be oh, I see I am mistaken, I have made a mistake in your favour—yes; that would be about 9,000 cases not 18,000—yes, 9,000 cases.—A. Well, I don't ever go into such figures. Last year I had 50 boats and packed nearly 12,000 cases; there is no use going into any calculations.

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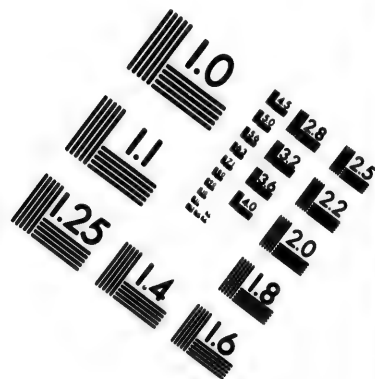
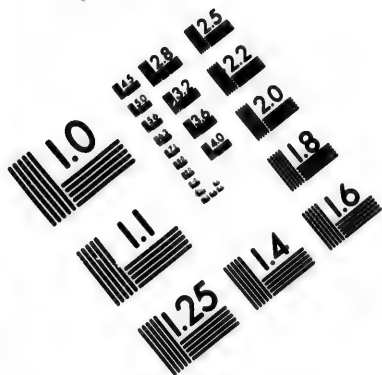
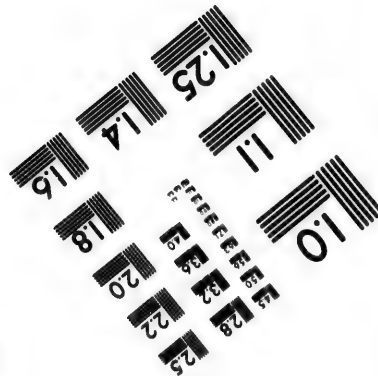
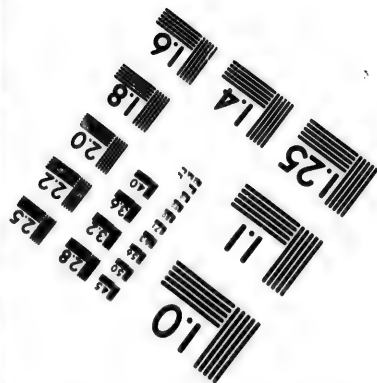
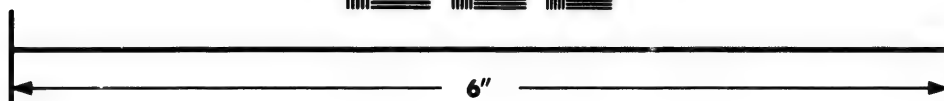
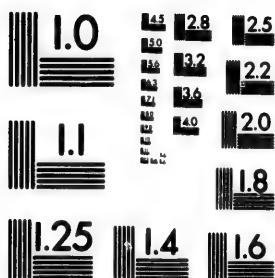


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Q. That you think a fair average ?—A. It was my pack ; my neighbours may have beaten that.

Q. And you had 20 boats, and you had to get the balance to make up fish for your cannery ?—Well, I was one of the managers for the syndicate and I used for my special cannery 50 boats last year—that is cannery boats and outsiders.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Did you put up all fish that you could catch ?—Yes.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Do you think that every person who has a boat and net, being a fisherman, who applies for a license should get it ?—A. Well yes, of course, I think so, because I think it very hard for a man who has his own boat and net if he could not get it ; of course with limitation there comes the difficulty.

Q. Well, but suppose there is no limitation, should cannery get less licenses ?—No. I don't think the cannery should be reduced—I think if cannery have 25 boats they would want 25 outsiders—even in a big year they would want them most of the time because in these big years they don't run so as one could not take care of all the fish he wants ; of course there may be one or two days when he would have to limit the boats.

Q. How many fishermen are there on the river ; do you know ? that is white men ?—A. No. I don't know—Mr. McNab could tell you that ; there are a good many.

Q. Do you know if there are many Indians that would fish if they had licenses ?—A. There are some ; I had some Indians fishing for me who had their own nets and licenses. Now, it has been stated that Indians were in the power of the cannerymen—that cannerymen took out licenses for them and then they had to fish for those cannerymen. Now, I think the parties are mistaken in one sense—of course any Indian that gets a license will require assistance, something to be advanced to them in way or of money, &c. If we consider an Indian is honest and will pay back in fish, why we credit him just the same as any other ; but any Indian that has had his own license I have treated as an outsider and given the same prices as I would white men.

Q. With all Indians who have boats and nets and all white men fishing, would there not be sufficient fish caught to supply the canneries ?—A. Well, I don't think canneries would want to be supplied by them at the prices they would want.

Q. Don't you think competition would be so great they would be glad to sell them ?—A. Well, it is a risk I would not care to take. I don't think that the Indians—many of them—would take out licenses ; most of them would rather work by day's labour and know what they were going to get ; they are the people mostly supplied to the canners ; most of our labour are Indians ; of course we employ some white men.

Q. Then you never made any calculation of the number of fish that came into your cannery in a session ?—A. No. I could tell if I had my books—I imagine it took about 12 to a case last year, but then that is only a surmise ; I have made those figures in previous years.

Q. Well, you think you could not do with less than 25 boats ?—A. No. I don't think we could do business properly.

Q. What effect on ordinary fishermen would this have ; would it restrict them ?—A. No. I don't think so, as I say every cannery would want 25 more boats, if we could get them.

Q. There are 22 canneries on this river ?—A. I don't know ; McNab can tell you ; there were several new canneries operated last year, I think, with the limitation on, of course, it is very difficult to satisfy outsiders anyway, because two men equally deserving apply and one cannot get it.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Then do you think every British subject and fisherman should get a licence ?—A. Yes ; only very strong reasons should prevent it.

Q. Then you think that licenses to each and canneries getting 25, would be satisfactory ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What would you do with freezers, salters, &c. ?—A. I would give them all the fish they could use ; of course I would not want to say anything that would deprive any one of a license, but during the run freezers get more fish than they can use and they sell them to the canneries ; that is a question for the department, I don't want to say anything about it.

Q. Well, but you should tell us what you think?—A. Well, when cannery first got only 20 boats and freezers got 10—that is half the number the cannery got—whereas the cannery get along with ten fish to the freezers' one, it certainly was not satisfactory to cannery while it might be to freezers.

Q. Then you think the number of licenses to freezers and others is a matter for the department, while cannery should get 25, and every British subject and fisherman should get one?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you anything to say about persons getting licenses and selling them? Should not men who get licenses use them—the cannery do don't they?—A. The cannery do. Of course we consider that, as I said before, that when cannery were restricted to 20 boats and handed the fish from twice that, it was a hardship that another should receive ten boats and not use the fish from more than two or three, but, of course with limitation off it would not make so much difference.

Q. Then you dispute that new licenses should be given to cannery?—A. No, but the cannery don't like to have their own number of licenses reduced to bring all within that established number. Our view is if 20 more canneries are erected, you should extend the limit of the licenses.

Q. Then that means that you are willing that there should be as many canneries on the river as capitalists like to put up, but they should be established at a maximum number of boats?—A. Yes, I don't think that we have anything to say as to what the department's course should be towards the new canneries; we only object that our licenses should be taken from us to provide for them.

Q. Would it be wise for the department to discriminate as between the number of licenses given to an old canner and a new one?—A. I don't think so; they should be put on the same footing. Now I am in business and I consider that my interest should be considered, but if I was not in business and wanted to engage in it, I think I would have the right to as many as others, but I would not want to take from his licenses to get mine.

Q. Well, as regards the fee for these canneries, should they be alike on one river as on another?—A. Well, we have the benefit of a hatchery and that would be one reason for us paying greater fees than those on a river that has no hatchery. I don't think the question of fees troubles the cannery.

Q. But on the Skeena it is \$5 and here \$20; if the Skeena fee was raised to \$20 would that be unjust?—A. Well, I think you should start a hatchery there before you raise the fee.

Q. Then you think starting a hatchery there would put you on an equality?—A. Well, that would be a reason for raising the fee.

Q. But do you think license fees should be the same all over the province?—A. My views on that matter—and I believe I would be in the minority—is that having advantage of the hatchery and which I believe will be very much to advantage of cannery and fishermen—I think it a good reason why we should have to pay more than on the Skeena.

Q. Then you think it sufficient reason for paying \$15, more than on the Skeena for every license?—A. I don't think it excessive.

Q. Do you belong to the Syndicate?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you any canneries on the Skeena?—A. Two.

Q. How many here?—A. Nine.

Q. And if the fee is changed on the Skeena two of these canneries would effect you?—A. Yes; but that would not matter.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. How many boats do you employ at the canneries on the Skeena?—A. We employ more up there.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. How would it stand as individuals then?—A. Oh well, I think they should pay equally as much as cannery, for they are equally benefited by the hatchery. I think it would be very unfair to charge a canner more than a fisherman.

Q. Yes : but on the Skeena they pay \$5, and on the Fraser \$20 ; as a matter of justice between these different parties do you think a fisherman gets the value of that \$15 difference from the hatchery ?—A. I do—it will take but few fish at fair prices to soon make up that difference.

Q. Skeena River canneries pack is fully as high as on the Fraser River, I see (perusing B. C. Board of Trade Report). Yes, the average of those on the Fraser River is 13,400 cases, and on the Skeena 13,000 cases, so they are about the same, you see ?—

A. Yes.

Q. The Skeena River packers—how many licenses do they get ?—A. Well, I cannot say that from my own knowledge ; but you can get that from Mr. McNab.

Q. And it would take as much labour and exertion to get a sufficient number of fish to put up 12,000 cases there, or more ?—A. They would average about the same.

Q. How do they fish there ?—A. Altogether with drift nets in deep water, no seining. But I don't know as my evidence should be taken on that for really I don't know—I would not state that is the only method of fishing on the Skeena.

Q. Have you any knowledge of the working of seines ?—A. Oh yes.

Q. Which is the most injurious, seine fishing or drift-nets ?—A. I don't think it would be wise to introduce seine fishing in the rivers.

Q. How then as to the mouths of rivers—would it mean some young and fish of all kinds would be taken ?—A. Very nearly—I think seines would interfere with the work of drift-nets.

Q. And their capacity of catching—would they catch greater number than drift-net ?—A. Well, if it was well situated probably it would—ordinarily, of course, seines catch a great many small fish that escape the drift-nets.

Q. Is it judicious to use seines with $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch mesh when drift-nets are in use with 5 $\frac{3}{4}$?—A. Of course, with seines they want to use mesh small enough so fish will not gill, because if they gill it is difficult to take them from the seine, but it will catch a great many fish that should not be caught.

Q. Do you know the effect of seining ?—A. No : I never had much experience—of course I have had catches, large and small.

Q. When a seine is being hauled, is it not a fact that fish run towards shore and not against the net ?—A. Well, I don't know that—I would, however, expect that.

Q. And the consequence would be they would not run the chance of being gilled ?—A. Yes, I suppose so.

Q. At present seining is forbidden, I merely bring it up to see what you think of it—a seine has the effect of sweeping along the bottom as well as the top and therefore everything must be taken ?—A. Yes.

Q. Is there anything else, Mr. Wadhams ?—A. No. I thought you would like to discuss the matter. One party in giving evidence stated that he had caught fish in August, referring to sockeye that had spawned. It was just a query : of course I never thought that would be.

Q. I don't think it likely that fish caught in August would be spawned. In fishing your own boats you have relays ?—A. Yes ; we fish with four men.

Q. And ordinary fishing—two men ?—A. Yes.

Q. Would not cannerymen have the advantage over outside men ?—A. Well yes : but our experience is that outside fishermen generally get more fish than our men.

Q. Are the men you use in your boats as good as white men ?—A. Well, take some Indians they are pretty hard to beat.

Q. Well, take them all through ?—A. Of course a good white man is better than the Indians will average, but as I say, take a good Indian and he is a pretty good man.

Q. Oh, I know, but is the average fisherman a better man than the Indian ?—A. Well, Indians are more apt to knock off when they consider they have done a good day's work.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. How far out do your boats go to fish as a rule ?—A. Well, they go out as far as the sand banks sometimes, which is pretty near the lighthouse—not all of them you know.

Q. Don't they go beyond the lighthouse?—A. Possibly, they may—they go as far as the sands extend.

Q. Perhaps you don't know exactly how far the fishermen do go?—A. No, I don't know exactly.

Q. Don't you think it detrimental to fish coming in the river to place large numbers of nets at the mouth of the river?—A. No, I don't—you might obstruct them for a short period, but when they strike the river, you cannot keep them out long.

Q. You don't think they would be headed off and go away?—A. No. I think they would seek these rivers—I don't think they would go away.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Are there not improvements going on outside the mouth—will that affect the channel?—A. It will make it narrower.

Q. Is it by driving piles?—A. Yes, laying mattresses, &c.

Q. How will they affect your fishing?—A. Well, it will make it more difficult to fish there.

Q. Would it be possible to carry on your fishing within the limits of the channel?—A. Well, I would hardly expect to get a fish within that channel.

Q. And you would have to fish outside?—A. Yes.

Q. And then the fish would have a better chance to get up into the main river?—A. Yes; I suppose so.

Q. Is that work in progress now?—A. Yes; I think so. I think boats are at work at present.

Q. Well, I hope, Mr. Wadhams, in a joking sort of way, sir, that you have not lost anything in giving your remarks in the first place, I considered that the precedent would be a bad one, and that others would perhaps say they would not give their evidence, but would go to Victoria.—A. I meant no discourtesy.

Q. Oh no, Mr. Wadhams, we quite appreciate that. Well, is there anything further you would like to state?—A. No; I think not at present.

MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Wadhams, thank you for your information.

JOHNNY MORGAN (coloured), of New Westminster, a native of British Columbia, and a fisherman.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, what is your grievance, or what do you want?—A. Well, I want to speak of ways of fish along the river at Harrison.

Q. Well, what do you want to say about that?—A. After they come up there—about a month after—the Indians catch them and dry them for their own use.

Q. Do you mean on the main river?—A. No; on the Harrison River; that is before they spawn—about two weeks—that is about November.

Q. Do they not spawn earlier than November?—A. Some of them do. After they find out they are going to spawn they don't catch them any more. The flesh gets white after a certain time, and they are poor.

Q. That is before and after, and at the spawning time?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long before the real spawning time do you see them getting white?—A. Well, about two or three weeks—about the beginning of November—some before and some after. More get up before. The sockeye get up first, then spring salmon.

Q. Spring salmon go there to spawn too?—A. Yes, sir; then the cohoes go—in fact all the fish, the cohoes, spring salmon and sockeye—they go up Morris Creek to the lake, except the spring salmon. They go up Siwash Creek and right along up to the lake. They don't go into Morris Lake at all.

Q. Have you fished up there?—A. I have both fished and speared. The principal way they have of catching salmon for their own use is by spearing.

Q. Have you ever got licenses to fish?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. They give you permission to fish with a net?—Yes; down here.

Q. Then you cannot complain because you don't get a license?—A. Well, I don't know.

Q. You did get a license?—A. Yes; in my own name and paid my own money for it.

Q. Did you catch many fish?—Yes; sometimes some years, and sometimes not as many as other years.

Q. What average, about?—A. I caught 3,000 last year—that was my bad year—the year before about the same.

Q. Then you generally averaged about 3,000 salmon?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. What did you get for them?—A. Last year 20 cents, the year before 10.

Q. Have you been on streams or rivers where spring salmon spawn?—A. They spawn at Harrison right along the river.

Q. Have you seen them spawning between the town of Harrison and along the river up to Harrison Lake—that is the spring salmon?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And spring salmon don't go into Harrison Lake—they go into Siwash River and Lake?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And how far is it from the mouth of the Siwash River to Siwash Lake?—A. About 8 or 10 miles.

Q. And all along that river is it a spawning ground—rapid water?—A. Yes; rapid and with gravelly bottom.

Q. What probable depth?—A. Well, about a foot and in other places a foot and a half.

Q. And the fish that enter Morris Creek are principally all sockeyes?—A. Yes; sockeyes, steel-heads, cohoes, and dog salmon.

Q. Well, sir, your information is useful in this way that some of the cannery want spring salmon bred here and the information you are giving would lead to the belief that spring salmon go up Siwash Creek and could be caught there—what time was that?—A. Yes, in November.

Q. Have you caught many of them there?—A. Quite a few.

Q. Red or white?—A. They are mixed red and white, but after a time there they all get white.

Q. Is that the case with Sockeye too?—A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, sir, I might state that the officers here have been seeking a place to get spring salmon to breed from, and this information you have given leads to what they require?—A. Yes, sir; there is another Creek—Silver Creek—I think it is—it empties into Harrison Lake—that they go up.

Q. Do you know anything of Stave River?—A. No, sir.

Q. What do you think of throwing offal into the river—good or bad for fish or people?—A. It might be bad for people, but I don't know if it is for fish.

Q. Are many people fishing on the Siwash River?—A. Nothing but Indians.

Q. And they catch them by spearing, you say?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. But not when spawning?—A. Not just at spawning time, because the meat is not very good and for a while it is very poor. When the sockeye comes in numbers they die—many die before they spawn and many after.

Q. Do spring salmon die too?—A. Yes.

Q. As numerous as sockeye?—A. Yes, sir. I think very few fish get back again.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Do you reside up Harrison River?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you seen fish die when they got a short distance this side of the bridge?—A. Yes, sir; I have seen many of them.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Can you give us any reason why they die?—A. No, sir.

Q. Where are the Hot Water Springs?—A. About three miles above.

Q. And the outlet of the spring is right at Harrison Lake. Does it change the colour of the water in Harrison Lake?—A. No, sir.

Q. The fish dying are in Harrison River?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you see them die in Siwash River?—A. No, sir; I have not seen them.

Q. The inference is the hot water has an effect—do you know anything of Nicomen Slough?—A. It is a part of the Fraser—it comes down just a little below Harrison.

Q. Do you know anything of the Pitt or Coquitlam Rivers.—A. No, sir.

Q. Is there anything further you would like to say?—A. No, sir.

Mr. WILMOT.—I am very glad you have given us the information you have; we have not had any one before giving us information as to these rivers, and it may be useful hereafter.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Thank you for your information.

The Commissioners adjourned at 4 p.m., to meet again at 10 a.m., on 26th February.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., 26th February, 1892.

Seventh Day's Session.

The Commissioners re-assembled at the Court-house, and was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

PRESENT.—S. Wilmot, Esq., presiding; Sheriff W. J. Armstrong; Mr. C. F. Winter, secretary.

WILLIAM ARTHUR, of Delta, or Ladner's Landing, a native of England, a farmer, and resident of British Columbia for thirty-three years, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. If you have any statement to make appertaining to the fisheries of the Fraser River, we will be pleased to hear it?—A. I wish to speak on the offal business. I don't know anything of the regulations about cannerymen or fishermen proper, but I wish to speak particularly on the offal business.

Q. Are you aware that offal is forbidden by law to be thrown in the river?—A. I have heard so, but I know it is always thrown into the river. My farm is just two miles from the Delta cannery, on a slough running in from Point Roberts. This slough is not navigable, except for very small boats, at high tides the water is bank high, but when it goes out it leaves the soil perfectly dry. It is ten feet wide at my place down to sixty feet at the cannery. The Delta cannery and Mr. Wadhams' cannery are not on the main Fraser, but they are on a slough; a sand bar runs down the river about two miles; steam-boats going to Ladner's Landing have to back down a mile to get back.

Q. What is the name of the slough?—A. Cohiluthar Slough.

Q. How far is it from—which cannery?—A. The Delta; it is right on the corner of the slough.

Q. How many more canneries are there between that slough and Canoe Pass?—A. Mr. Wadhams' cannery—before a steamer can get back into deep water she has to back about half a mile—now the offal is all thrown from the bottom of the cannery and the tide comes up this slough and takes it clean up to where I live. The offal is all thrown from a hole in the floor to the water.

Q. About how deep is the water?—A. Well, it is often dry; I have seen the offal from a foot to eighteen inches deep until the tide comes. When the tide runs up it goes with a pretty big current and takes everything up to where I live, but when it

recedes it leaves everything in the grass. It moves everything right up to the head of the slough, and then it stays there, not only portions of offal, but lots in front of my door. I invited some canners to go and see it, but they would not go. Since these canneries have been there we have had much typhoid fever; right along this slough we have had seventeen cases of fever this last summer; four cases in my own house alone; three I had to send to the hospital, and it cost me \$600 to get them out. And Mr. Calhoun—his farm is opposite mine—he had two of his sons and three of his hired men down with typhoid fever, and so Mr. Calhoun had five cases in his house. A quarter of a mile below my nephew lives, and he had three cases, and there were two others further down nearer the river, and they had two cases also that I know of. I think if the offal were taken out in the deep water where the current would take it off, it would be less liable to cause sickness, but I am fully convinced that this typhoid fever has been the result of offal being thrown in, because there has been no sickness either side of us all summer.

Q. What do you mean by "either side?"—A. A mile on each side of us. There is no current to take offal from either of those canneries—the tide comes right up. I refer to the "Delta" and Mr. Wadham's canneries.

Q. Do these two canneries carry on a large business?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. To what extent—have you any idea?—A. I don't know; I have heard that the "Delta" put up two years ago 20,000 cases.

Q. You have reference to 1890?—A. Yes; I have heard in 1890, 20,000—something like that.

Q. Have you any cause, or knowledge of your own, or could you give us any information as to the number of cases put up that year?—A. No, sir; I could not—I only speak from hearsay.

Q. The hearsay is 20,000?—A. Yes; I think those two canneries are situated worse than any others on the river, because there is no prominent point where the current strikes to take it off. I think the offal should be taken from those canneries especially.

Q. What about Canoe Pass?—A. Well, there is quite a bit of sickness along Canoe Pass as well.

Q. What canneries are there?—A. Well, I don't know, I think there are three. The Phoenix is one—I don't know all the names.

Q. Are there cases of typhoid fever on Canoe Pass?—A. There has been; it is a larger body of water than our slough. Canoe Pass is a very large stream.

Q. How wide might it be?—A. A quarter of a mile, I think.

Q. The effects of offal there would not be felt as much as in your Slough?—A. Not as much; there are little pockets in the sides of the Pass, little wash-outs, &c., and offal works in these, and people who were piling hay had to go and remove it.

Q. And they removed it? For what reason?—A. The stench was so bad they could not work.

Q. Is there an oil factory near there?—A. No; the oil factory is on an island in the river further up.

Q. Do you know the name of the island on which it is?—A. I don't know.

Q. Crusoe Island?

MR. LADNER (interrupting): Yes; you may call it that.

MR. WILMOT (to witness): You have resided for some time down there?—A. I have owned land for 15 years and have had my family residing there for the last seven years.

Q. Have you been selling land there?—A. No; I have not sold any, but I will have to sell very soon if there is continued sickness.

Q. Has it affected your land?—A. Yes; I think it has depreciated the value of land, in my estimation \$20 an acre, on account of the fever sickness being along that slough. I might say there was going to be a public meeting to-morrow at two o'clock for people to give evidence to send before this Commission.

Q. What municipality?—A. Delta.

Q. On the offal question alone?—A. Yes; on the offal question alone.

Q. Are there many inhabitants in that municipality?—A. Yes; they are quite numerous there now—I suppose there are a couple of hundred people in about a radius of three miles there.

Q. All farmers?—A. Principally.

Q. What is the product of farming operations there, cereals &c.?—A. Yes; cereals, hay, fruit and general farming.

Q. Well, the island formed between the slough and Canoe Pass?—A. Well, it is an unknown island; it is a sand bar formed for about two miles long—at high tide vessels might go over it. The offal is carried into that slough and there is no current to take it out.

Q. Are you of opinion that means could be adopted for consumig this offal by making it into oil or adopting it for agricultural purposes—fertilizer?—A. Well, I have used some of the material from this factory as a fertilizer and I think it very good.

Q. What sort of constituents has it—the refuse?—A. Something like a brown snuff, quite fine, like powder—I used about 500 pounds of it last summer.

Q. And quite dry?—A. Yes, quite dry.

Q. If thrown into water does it float away or does it sink?—A. Well, I never threw it in, I throw it on the land—I think if thrown in might float away—there is no smell attached to it much.

Q. Have you been at the oil factory?—A. Yes, I have been through it.

Q. Is there much offensive smell coming from that factory?—A. At the time of working there is.

Q. Have they done much work there—have they manufactured much?—A. No; not a great deal—I have heard it did not pay for itself, but the offal could be taken from these canneries in scows with false bottoms like sand from dredging.

Q. Have you heard the reason why it did not pay?—A. No; I think it has been carried on, on an experimental scale—the Delta Cannery has taken some offal to this factory last summer, but I don't know if canners had any shares in it, &c.

Q. Do you think it would be any difficulty for canners to take offal to these factories if established?—A. No; it is a mere matter of towing the scows there.

Q. Could offal be easily caught from the canneries?—A. Yes, I think so—it would be merely a matter of dropping it down from a shoot into a hopper.

Q. What effect upon fish has it?—A. Well, I don't know what effect it would have upon fish.

Q. Do fish ever come up the slough you speak of?—A. I don't think any salmon run up there—nothing but small fish—dog-fish, suckers, &c.

Q. Have you any knowledge of what transpired there 20 or 30 years ago; during the time you have been there did any salmon come up?—A. Fifteen years ago there was no bar there and steamers could come in then. Formerly, I believe, the slough did run straight through, but I don't think any fish went through.

Q. Well, then this map is misleading, because it shows the water running straight through into Georgia Straits. (Referring to map by Albert J. Hill, in pamphlet form, printed at the office of "The Columbian," New Westminster, 1889).—A. Oh no; no water runs through—there is no opening and the offal backs up and comes through—I have never been in the fish business and so cannot say much about them.

Q. Of the inhabitants that form this municipality—were there many ordinary fishermen or are they fishermen at present?—A. No; most are farmers—there might be 15 or 20 fishermen.

Q. Is the soil good and productive?—A. Yes, very good. And the tendency would be that farmers would settle there, but if there is as much sickness again as last summer, it would deter people from going there, and I think it can be traced right to the offal.

Q. Are you aware of this sort of difficulty prevalent anywhere else, except just at Delta?—A. On Canoe Pass, as I have told you.

Q. Anywhere else?—A. No; not that I know of.

Q. Are you sufficiently acquainted with operations in a cannery to know what proportion of fish become offal and are thrown in the river?—A. No, I am not—I would suppose one-fifth or one-sixth goes into the river and very often there might be a scow load that goes—any unfit for canning are thrown into the river.

Mr. LADNER (interrupting).—Mr. Chairman, I will ask you to ask Mr. Arthur if he knows that, and can state it in evidence?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Order, order.

Mr. ARTHUR.—Well, I have known of fish to be thrown over from a scow.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. And have you seen this on more than one occasion?—A. Well, what I have seen myself and heard ; when there is a heavy pack it is done every season.

Q. Does it occur every season?—A. No, I don't think it occurred this season ; I know that last season it was, because I went to get some myself and the whole scow load was bad.

Q. What number might be in a scow?—A. From one to two thousand fish in a scow ; I should think that fully.

Q. And you say that when these are bad and unfit for canning they are thrown into the river?—A. Yes ; they are. I am not a canner myself, but state from hearsay, and what I have seen.

Q. And can you say you believe that if a large factory were started there this offal can be used in shape of a fertilizer and oil?—A. Yes ; I cannot say if it would pay, but I know the fertilizer is good, and I have used the oil and it is good. I should think about 2,000 gallons were used at the Landing last summer ; Mr. McNeely told me about 2,000 gallons were sold.

Mr. LADNER (interrupting).—I would ask Mr. Wilmot to ask Mr. Arthur if he knows that for a fact himself?

Mr. WILMOT.—No interruptions please ; when you were here you were heard attentively, Mr. Ladner.

By Mr. Wilmot (continuing) :

Q. So you think about 2,000 gallons of oil were purchased at Delta ; what value per gallon?—A. I think it is 50 cents.

Q. What use do they put the oil to?—A. Well, farmers use it for every shape in which they use oil.

Q. Is it good for lubricating machinery?—A. Yes ; and for oiling harness, and in fact everything owned on the farm.

Q. It takes the place of the kind of oil they formerly used?—A. Well, I have never heard of anything else but fish oil used there.

Q. Well, but it takes the place of what was formerly used and bought elsewhere?—A. Of course.

Q. You have been in the habit of buying oil other than this for lubricating, &c. ?—A. Yes.

Q. And at what price?—A. Just the same price as offal oil from the factory.

Q. It stands then on the same footing, as it were?—A. Yes.

Q. Where is the nearest agricultural or farming operations carried on to you from Delta ; is it all around that section of the country?—A. More or less all over ; it is all taken up ; not an acre but what is owned ; of course it is not thickly populated as yet, but quite so around the river front.

Q. Is this oil much used?—A. Well, I don't think they use anything else, for a farmer goes and buys dog-fish oil.

Q. Is this oil used anywhere else ; do you find lumbermen using it on skids, &c. ?—A. Well, I don't know.

Q. You know oil is used for that purpose?—A. Yes ; I know.

Q. And do you think this offal oil would be useful for this purpose?—A. Yes ; I think so.

Q. You must know, Mr. Arthur, the object of asking these questions is that in the event of the offal being made into oil, we want to know if it is possible for it to be used for these purposes?—A. Well, I think it preferable to dog-fish oil, because it is not so offensive to the smell.

Q. You don't know anything about the fishing business, and don't care to make any remarks; you have no suggestions to make? What is your idea as to the close season—at present it takes in from Saturday morning at six o'clock until Sunday afternoon at six o'clock?—A. Oh, well, I think that is very good. I am not interested, but I think it would give time for fish to run up from Saturday morning to six o'clock Sunday evening.

Q. Now, from a moral standpoint, is it preferable to have any operations on Sunday used for fishing purposes?—A. I think not.

Q. Then you think it justifiable, not only to fish, but to inhabitants coming here, that the whole of Sunday should be kept?—A. I do.

Q. Now, a great many settlers complain that they cannot get licenses; do you think every man, a British subject, should get a license to fish if he wants it?—A. I do; I think that every man who is a fisherman should get it, but it should not be transferable, and I think one license enough for one man.

Q. From the point of causing immigration to the country, do you think it would advance the population here if every man got a license?—A. I think it would; I think if cannerymen get all the licenses they want, very few other persons would get the chance of fishing.

Q. You don't say canners should not get any licenses?—A. Oh, no; I don't say that, but if canners get a great number of licenses, why fishermen cannot sell their fish.

Q. Have you known of people leaving the country because they could not get licenses to fish?—A. They have told me so, that they were going away because they could not get a chance of a license or sell fish.

Q. Are you now satisfied in your own mind that offal could be converted into oil and fertilizers by the application of the necessary means from the canneries?—A. I do, and I don't think, even if it could not be used in the factory, I don't think it would be of but very little expense to take it out into salt water, because there is never a day but the canneries from Delta, take a steamer to the mouth of the river, they take the scows down.

Q. And you think it would be conducive to the benefit of the cannery, if they did this?—A. Yes; to the health of the cannery.

By Mr. Armstrong.

Q. Are there any cesspools and other stagnant recesses near your house to make a smell there, other than what comes from the slough?—A. No, sir; there is nothing to account for the sickness other than the offal; beyond a mile from the slough there was no sickness; around the slough there were 16 cases and three or four deaths.

By Mr. Wilmot.

Q. Where do you get your water, along the slough?—A. We have to catch rain water, my cattle have to drink the water from the slough.

Q. Well, if the cattle drink this, was there anything bad in the milk?—A. Well, a canneryman told me that—that the sickness came from the milk, but whether this is from the cattle drinking the water or not, we could not get water anywhere else, except away back in the woods—the cattle cannot get anything else.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Are there not a number of persons down there who use water out of the slough?—A. Yes; they have to—they take it from the slough and filter it if the tanks run out. When we first went there to live we drank water from the slough.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. About 16 years ago?—A. Yes.

Q. Were there any canneries there then?—A. No, there were no canneries when I located there first.

Q. And you drank the water from this slough?—A. Yes, but we don't do it now—we are afraid to do it.

MR. WILNOT.—Thank you—that will do Mr. Arthur.

E. A. JENNS, of New Westminster, a barrister, and resident of British Columbia for 11 years, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Well, if you have any statement, Mr. Jenns, we are prepared to receive it?—A. I would prefer if you would ask me the questions in order.

Q. Well, in regard to the chief question?—A. Well, some seven or eight years ago when younger, I used to go fishing and shooting on the river, and I have seen the shoots at the canneries leading into the water continuously day after day, and I have seen the small fish around them in great numbers. No part of the intestines ever reach more than the water before being consumed by the thousands of small fish, and the larger parts, the heads and tails, are eaten up by sturgeon and the larger fish. I don't believe that the injury from offal is one half as much as from dead fish floating down stream.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. What effect has offal on fish and fish life?—A. It simply serves to feed the lower class of fish.

Q. Any effect upon the entrance of the commercial class of fish passing up?—A. I should think not; I could not say whether or not, but I believe not.

Q. What effect has it, do you think, from a sanitary standpoint?—A. Well, the only place I have ever heard of it is from around the Delta, where lots are found, but even there, I don't think the smell would be as bad as above here,

Q. Then you think it has an effect?—A. It might have down there, but not here.

Q. What is the effect of water and air being pure, is it not better from sanitary effects than if not?—A. Well, yes, I certainly grant you that, but you have not proved yet that the water or air is made impure by offal.

Q. Then you think it has no effect upon water or air by throwing in large quantities of offal?—A. I think it has very little effect, because I think it is consumed at once.

Q. You think it is consumed as it falls from the canneries?—A. I have seen the water apparently to the eye rise three inches as the small fish rushed up.

Q. Or would it be from rising on top of the offal underneath it? (laughter)—A. No: it would be from the fish rising up to get the offal.

Q. Have you seen fish in shoal water with their backs out of the water?—A. Well, I have seen fish in the upper waters of the Fraser River in places where the water was shallow, fighting their way up—they laid back to back—the smaller fish don't come up that way—they go with a rush.

Q. Then you think offal is not injurious to man or beast?—A. No; not if deposited in deep running water—on shore it may,

Q. Then if it lodges along the sloughs?—A. Well, I don't think it would be as bad as from death of fish. I know of one farmer in Chilliwack who took away 50 loads of dead fish.

Q. But Chilliwack is not down here?—A. Well, but it is just the same as here—Chilliwack is only 40 miles away—I have seen dead fish in great numbers 500 miles from here.

Q. But if you or your family were living along these sloughs would it not be offensive?—A. Well, not at the canneries—I am speaking of when there were canneries in the town here—Mr. Ewen had one, and I think there was another in town then, too.

Q. Then you would not mind living alongside a cannery?—A. No; I would not, except for the Chinamen.

Q. Then Chinamen are worse than the offal are they?—A. Yes. I think so, a good deal. (Laughter.)

Q. And you say the offal goes down from a shoot into the water and the little fish raise themselves out of the water to get it?—A. Yes. I have seen it time and time again.

Q. Do you know what fish these are?—A. They call them suckers.

Q. Do you know that suckers are a voracious fish?—A. They are a greedy fish I know.

Q. Do you think they eat the heads and tails?—A. No, I don't; but they eat the intestines—the heads and tails are eaten by the sturgeon.

Q. But these large quantities that are sent along the sloughs—is that what has escaped being eaten by the large fish?—A. If it is so, I suppose so.

Q. You spoke of large numbers of salmon coming down from the upper waters dead—have you ever seen them here?—A. No, but I have seen them in thousands between Boston Bar and Yale—I have seen a few here, but they don't appear on the surface as above.

Q. The place you speak of is several miles from here?—A. The place I speak of is over a hundred miles from here—I have seen a few floating here and have seen them along the shore here and there deposited.

Q. From what source were they deposited?—A. Well, I have simply imagined that they were washed up by the tide.

Q. Would you think they were from the canneries?—A. No, I don't think so—I didn't think there were any canneries above here.

Q. Were canneries not above here—what about the "Bon Accord" and Mr. Laidlaw's cannery?—A. Oh well, if you tell me there are canneries above here, of course, I suppose there is.

Q. Is it not possible that this offal which creates in the estimation of the public here so much offensiveness—could it not be made into oil or something?—A. Well, I don't know anything about that—it is a speculation—I would not care to go into it myself, it might not pay, though. I don't know.

Q. You say offal from fish is not injurious to fish or to inhabitants?—A. That is my opinion.

Q. How about saw-dust?—A. I know nothing about that.

Q. About the limitation of licenses?—A. No, I don't know—I know the canneries must have fish to work with on Monday—the present close season seems to me to have been found the best of any.

Q. You are a legal man you say—if a man has business you think you should work on Sunday for him?—A. Yes. I would work on Sunday or any other day.

Q. And you have no fear of that which appertains to the christian world?—A. Well, I would not like to say that either.

Q. Do you know of anything about artificial fish-breeding?—A. I believe it is beneficial.

Q. Do you know anything of the distribution of licenses?—A. Well, that again I can only speak of from a business point of view—what number I cannot say, but I think every British subject should have a license. But from my experience I can speak of only some canneries—the canneries make arrangements in the spring to put up so many cases—fifteen, twenty, or thirty thousand cases as it may be—then they make a contract with intelligent fishermen to supply them with fish—if they get few fish their own boats are fully employed—if they get too many fish then their boats are first withdrawn—that is working with an established number of licenses—for if they execute a contract with outside fishermen, of course if they did not adhere to it, would be a matter of so much damages.

Q. And with an established number of 25 or 40 licenses they make these calculations—if they got one-half the number of licenses they would make one-half the arrangements?—A. Well, no, it would depend upon their capital and other things.

Q. And you think there should be an established number and every fishermen should get a license?—A. Certainly.

Q. And do you think there should be bartering and selling of licenses?—A. I simply think that the man who takes a license or licenses should use them for himself—it is not a matter of speculation.

Q. What are your views in regard to the license fee being the same for all canners in the province?—A. That I am not prepared to say.

Q. Well, sir, I think that is all the list of questions—if you have anything further?—A. I have one or two things I would like to suggest—I heard one witness speaking about the different runs of fish in the river. I cannot speak from personal knowledge, but the man who knew most about fish in the river was Mr. Charles Hughes—he is dead now, unfortunately—I give this simply as information. He was a man who knew about what he was talking and he told me when the Whites first came out here the stories they got from Indians were to the effect that there were five runs of fish in the river, and they didn't believe them. Then a man was sent out from England and stayed here a year—a Naturalist—and after studying the thing out they found there were really five different classes of fish in the river—then a man named Lord wrote a book about the salmon in British Columbia and telling of the different kinds. Another thing is, I don't think from what I personally observed, or from what I have heard, that any sockeye ever return to the sea after they enter the river.

Q. Have you any knowledge of that fact?—Yes; I have been travelling up and down the river since 1878.

Q. How do you think that the species would be kept up if all die?—A. Well, that I cannot say—there is one proof outside of what I have heard and that is this—salmon can be caught going up river, but I never heard of fish being caught going down.

Q. But fish are no use then?—A. But the experiments have been made—just like the experiments to catch them with a fly.

Q. Do you know the cause of that sir, why they cannot be caught? They never take the fly in the breeding season in any country in the world—they only take the fly when they first come in and in clear water?—A. Well, I know salmon will take either the spoon or fly in the salt water at the mouth of the river, and that salmon will take the fly and spoon in England.

Q. They do in some of the lakes and streams?—A. Then the effect trout have upon the salmon—they are not merchantable here but they are in Victoria. I have seen the salmon spawning and the trout following up and eating the roe almost as soon as it is deposited.

Q. Yes; that is a provision of nature—all fish live upon one another—either directly or indirectly. Large fish consume the smaller ones, but evidently they leave enough eggs to furnish these canners with enough fish to carry on their operations.—A. There is just one other remark—I don't know if it is of much interest—five years ago I was up to Coquitlam Lake, and I have seen salmon in great numbers there dead upon the water—some sockeye were, and I have seen them there dead after spawning. One of the Indians who was with me took one of the dead salmon out of the water and stripped it to get some of the spawn to fish with for trout.

Q. Then the consumption of water from this lake, would it not be hurt by the numbers of dead salmon? I understand that you are to draw water from this lake for the city—if large numbers of dead fish are there would it not be hurtful to the water?—A. Yes; certainly it would.

Q. Then would not this large amount of offal thrown into the river be hurtful?—A. Well, I don't think so—it is all eaten up at once. I have drank water myself from the river in winter and have been made almost sick from it. From what I have seen of Coquitlam Lake, I don't think the water would be very much hurt.

Q. You would only draw good water then for the city. You would not draw the bad water? (Laughter.)—A. Well, I don't know—I don't think it would be hurtful.

F. L. LORD, a native of the United States, resident in New Westminster—15 years in British Columbia—and a salmon packer, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

You prefer giving your own statement to answering questions?—A. Yes; I would prefer it for awhile anyway. It is my opinion that offal does no particular harm to fish

or fish life—I cannot see where it does any. I would not undertake to say it does not actually do any, but I don't know that it does any particular harm—there might be, but I don't know anything about it.

Q. What further do you know then?—A. Well, from my experience in the salmon business we have been practising dumping it down through shoots into the water—that has been the practice.

Q. Have you been aware all this time that it was an illegal practice?—A. Well, there has been no law enforced to the contrary.

Q. The law is in force—it is only that your permission given to not observe it is revoked.—A. I suppose so.

Q. And the law was not revoked either this year or last year, therefore it must have been in force?—A. I am not an owner—my employers would be liable.

Q. What cannery would you be with?—A. I have been with Mr. Wadham's for a number of years past.

Q. What quantities of fish are brought in annually?—A. Oh, well, if a man packs 15,000 cases we calculate from eleven to twelve fish to a case, and that 15,000 cases would apply to some years while, 8,000 cases would better apply to some other years.

Q. What would be the weight of salmon of that kind?—A. Well, I could not say what proportion we throw away.

Q. That is not the question I asked.—A. Well, about four or five pounds after they are cleaned.

Q. But I asked you what are the average weights of salmon brought in by the fishermen?—A. I don't know.

Q. What time were you engaged in salmon business?—A. About sixteen years.

Q. And you don't know the average weight of the fish you handle?—A. Well, I don't know—I never weighed them; if you want me to guess, why of course—

Q. Oh, well, you guessed at these other matters, did you?—A. No, I know that; oh, well, I would say the fish would be in the neighbourhood of 8 pounds.

Q. Do you get any fish weighing 8, 9 or 10 pounds?—A. Well, probably 10 pounds would be too much.

Q. And what the average?—A. I would say from 6 to 7 pounds.

Q. And you guessed at that, too?—A. I am guessing it, of course, because I never weighed them.

Q. And if other cannery make oath that it is 7 or 8 pounds would they be correct?—A. Well, I don't know; I don't like to be fastened down to a point; I should say the general average would be about 7 pounds.

Q. Cannery and others say about 7 and 8 pounds?—A. Well, I suppose I should say 7 or 8 pounds.

Q. And now there will be no guess work as to the number of fish that come in?—A. Oh, no, I know that.

Q. What number of fish would be brought in daily?—A. Well, it depends on the season; sometimes they will bring in two or three hundred, and perhaps next day you will only get 20 or 30.

Q. Is there any time in the season when large numbers are taken?—A. Oh, yes; it is very hard to say; some men will go out and catch between seven and eight thousand fish.

Q. Some will catch 10,000, don't they?—A. Well, I have heard so, but I don't know whether they do or not.

Q. Well, many of them catch 5,000?—A. Yes; I should think many of them would catch 5,000.

Q. And these fish are brought into the cannery?—A. Yes; they are all brought to the camps first. They are then brought to the wharf and then cleaned and put on tables for cutting.

Q. What is the first process in cleaning?—A. Taking off the head, then taking off the fins, and then splitting the belly and cleaning out the entrails. Then the tail is cut off and thrown out into the water.

Q. What is the next process then?—A. After the salmon is washed thoroughly it is cut into the right lengths by a machine with revolving knives, to suit the cans.

Q. Well, then, they are cut in so many pieces, and these are the pieces that make the cans, and each can takes one, and one fish will make how many cans of that size?—A. About four cans.

Q. An eight-pound salmon will make four cans?—A. Oh, I won't say the eight-pound salmon.

Q. Well, we started with an eight-pound salmon; we will say four cans?—A. Then they are thrown in the brine tank, and then thrown out and drained, and then they go on the filling tables, and then they are put in cans.

Q. A pound in each?—A. Yes; they do get a pound in each. The next process is, all dirt is thoroughly washed off the can, &c., and then they pass on to the soldering machine and then they are cooked. After steaming they are washed in the lye kettle, thoroughly washed off in a clean kettle and piled away.

Q. And they are then ready to be packed for market after being labelled?—A. Well, they are piled up in a pile—before this they are tested, and leaks fixed up, &c.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. After they are steamed, do you not put holes in every can?—A. Yes; they are punched with a hole, and after the steam comes out they are then closed up.

Q. And does any liquor come off?—A. Yes; a little liquor goes, too.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. How many hands are employed in a cannery?—A. Well, in the neighbourhood of 100, all told—that is, in a cannery with a capacity of 15,000 cases, because there are only a few days when all can be working fully.

Q. Of those 100 hands, how many are foremen generally?—A. I have been a foreman—there would be a foreman of the Chinamen—he would be a Chinaman.

Q. Yes; but how many white men in specified positions?—A. Well, then there is the foreman of the cooking; then there are firemen, and several other assistants.

Q. The firemen would be white men, and all the rest Chinamen?—A. No; there would be a white inspecting the filling, and white men would be in charge of the retorts, timing and keeping the proper temperature; then watchmen, &c., about eight white men.

Q. Would that be a fair average in other canneries?—A. Yes; there might be days when they would bring in one or two others.

Q. And the rest?—A. Klootchmen and Chinamen—the greater number Chinamen. The Indian women wash the fish, and pile the cans away, and such work as they can do.

Q. Are Chinamen paid by day work, or on contract?—A. Well, some canneries are different. Some Chinamen contract to do the work at so much a case. Mr. Wadhams engaged his men by days' pay.

Q. Do you know how much the boss Chinamen gets per case?—A. About 50 to 70 cents a case. I don't know what it costs other cannerymen.

Q. A trifle over a cent a can?—A. Yes.

Q. And the Indian women, they are paid by the day?—A. In the case of a contract they would be paid out of that 70 cents, or whatever it might be.

Q. Oh, then the whole of the work is done by the Chinaman boss?—A. Yes; the whole thing; and of course these Chinamen pay the Klootchmen.

Q. And the only other white men would be the six or seven you mention?—A. Yes; that applies to some canneries.

Q. Well, it is the general thing, is it not?—A. Well, I think a number of canneries have been doing it by the day.

Q. Then the white labour employed in a cannery, turning out 15,000 cases, are some six or eight white men?—A. Yes; but I may say it would not pay any white to do the work the Chinamen do for the pay, or anything like what the canneries would be willing to pay.

Q. And if any class would do it for 35 cents, you would take legitimate work away from others for them?—A. Yes; we would all do that—we would get it as cheap as possible.

Q. Have you any knowledge of the Columbia River?—A. Yes; I have been through there, and I have never seen a white man employed there in this work—a white man would starve to death.

Q. Then the canneries that are run by this work—the proportion of expenditure would be about the same—contract and days' work?—A. About the same, I think.

Q. What do you pay the Indian women?—A. 10 cents an hour. In Wadham's cannery they are paid 12½ cents—some less. Chinamen are paid \$30, \$32 and \$45 a month. Some few Chinamen are paid as high as \$45 a month, but very few, I think.

Q. Then on the whole, contract prices and day prices is about the same thing?—A. About the same thing. Speaking of my own experience, I had to run around and get all the white men I could.

Q. Do you try to get Chinamen first?—A. No, I don't; but we could not afford to take white men.

Q. Then a white man is better than a Chinaman?—A. Oh, yes. Of course I would prefer a good white man to a good Chinaman any time.

Q. Can you give us any description further as to the mode in which these people are paid—are they paid in money or in trade?—A. In money.

Q. Are there attached to the canneries, shops or business places, where cannerymen keep goods for sale to Chinamen and workmen?—A. Yes; most of them have their own shops in connection with the establishments.

Q. And in which the workmen trade considerably for their wants, &c.?—A. Yes; but I don't think they would get much except food and provisions. They have a few little things, dry goods, &c., but they don't amount to much.

Q. But there would be a considerable amount of goods consumed in the course of a year?—A. Yes; in places where they were away from stores.

Q. And do they import these things—do they get them from San Francisco or elsewhere?—A. No; I think they get them from Victoria, and in the towns here.

Q. Do the workmen—Chinamen, Klootchies, &c.—get all the fish they want gratis for their own food?—A. Yes; usually they do.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Do they get all the white salmon and other fish not canned?—A. Yes; I think there is enough white salmon caught during the sockeye run to supply the Indians with food. I might, however, be going too far in this, but—

Q. And are all given to the Indians?—A. Yes; as far as I know.

Q. Are they in good condition?—A. Yes; invariably in good condition.

Q. You know of no instance where salmon became unfit for canning purposes?—A. Well, there are cases of sun-burnt salmon, which would be unfit for canning, and they are thrown overboard.

Q. Are there any instances in your memory where a whole boat-load would be unfit—keeping over night too long, &c.?—A. No; I don't know of any such case—all boats deliver fish at the scows and none at the cannery. I don't mean that scows come in with sun-burnt fish on that scow. I mean that fishermen will catch fish and throw them in the boat, and when they are not properly covered over, they will get sun-burnt and damaged.

Q. Are these fish easily discerned?—A. Yes; the Klootchmen get them and they watch closely, because they get all these fish for themselves.

Q. But some are thrown overboard?—A. Sometimes.

Q. And these occurrences must occur more or less in a large business?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. And these things cannot be avoided?—A. Oh, well, yes; if you watch every fisherman.

Q. And these white spring salmon that come in—are they kept separate?—A. Yes; they are kept separate.

Q. How many spring salmon does it take to a case?—A. About four or five to a case. On the Columbia River it takes a fraction over three.

Q. They average larger there?—A. Yes.

Q. And sockeye do not frequent the Columbia River?—A. No; I don't know of any. I don't know of any sockeye below the Straits, excepting in around Point Roberts.

Q. And when the sockeyes are coming in in the last of the season, the humpbacks are running, too?—A. Yes; but they are not fit for canning.

Q. What is done with them?—A. I think they are thrown overboard.

Q. And they cannot help catching them?—A. Oh, no; they cannot help catching them. After the second spring salmon run, we have the cohoes run.

Q. And you pack them?—A. No; we do not pack them at all—they don't come in sufficient quantities to pay.

Q. And their flesh?—A. Oh, their flesh is all right, as far as I have noticed.

Q. And they would be in at what time?—A. In the latter part of August. They follow right after the sockeye run. Some canneries have canned spring salmon, but only for one season. They didn't find it profitable.

Q. And there would be a greater number thrown away or given to the Indians, because they are useless?—A. Yes.

Q. And cohoes—what is done with them?—A. Well, they are very numerous, but we do not fish for them unless the freezers and market-men handle them. Cannerymen leave them alone.

Q. Are cohoes increasing in numbers in the river to what they were?—A. Well, I cannot say.

Q. What effect would it have upon the river if you caught sockeyes continuously, and allowed the humpbacks and cohoes to come free—would they not preponderate?—A. It does not seem to have that effect; but, as I say, I don't know the first thing about salmon breeding.

Q. Have you had some experience in modes of fishing other than the modes of fishing called gill-netting and drifting? Any of the mode of fishing by seines—have you found that a seine would be a more injurious net for catching fish?—A. It might be injurious in this way that it would catch ungrown salmon. I think gill-net fishing catches lots of fish. I don't think they would do any better with a seine. The seine is generally thrown around a shoal of salmon, and it takes them all in.

Q. But a drift-net would not take them all in?—A. Well, I suppose a seine would take them all in a shoal, but a drift-net will take more in the river than any seine will.

Q. But would a seine not be more likely to take more fish out of a shoal than a drift-net?—A. Yes; out of one shoal I think it would.

Q. Have you anything to say about the close season?—A. No; I think the way it was last year is about right.

Q. Would it seriously affect canners if extended to 12 o'clock Sunday night?—A. Oh, yes; they would never get a boat out at 12 o'clock.

Q. The reason I ask you is that many persons think Sunday should not be broken, but you think it should be left alone (*i.e.*, the present season left alone)?—A. Yes; the season is very short, and I think it would not do to hamper us too much.

Q. Then, if the season was half as short you would take all Sunday?—A. Well, I don't think it hurts to use Sunday, and then it lets fish get up the river.

Q. What do you think of artificial breeding?—A. Well, if you estimate that catching lots of fish kills them out, and then we have good runs of fish, I would be willing to give the hatchery the benefit of the doubt.

Q. Do you think any man a British subject should have a license?—A. I think every man, a resident and British subject should get a license.

Q. Should it be transferable?—A. No; I think a man who gets a license should fish it.

Q. Do the cannery men have relays of men?—A. Yes.

Q. And a boat running all the time?—A. Yes.

Q. And ordinary fishermen have one boat and net?—A. Yes.

Q. And would not that be in favour of the cannery boat with four men?—A. Well, you would think so, but I know our experience is that with a good run of salmon they will pile them up, but with a poor run they don't do much; but if it was not for the canneries the four men in a boat would go hungry.

Q. Do you think the fees should be the same on the Fraser, Skeena and Naas?—
A. Well, I don't know much about them. I think all should pay \$20 alike; I don't see why they should not.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, sir, we have got some very useful information from you.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. I might ask you—you say there is nearly enough white salmon caught to supply the Indians who might be fishing?—A. Well, I don't want to be fastened down to that.

Q. Well, are these fish given to the Indians counted in among the number given as caught in the year?—A. Well, I don't think so; we don't pay for those fish to men fishing for so much apiece, but with a man working by the day of course they would.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Nor cohoes, humpbacks, &c.?—A. No. Did I understand Mr. Arthur to say that he had seen scow loads of fish only fit to be thrown away? Because if he did, I can say that it is not true.

Mr. WILMOT.—No; I don't think he said that.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—But you have no right to say that any man's evidence is not true; you can say that you have never seen such a thing.

Mr. LORD.—Well, I have never seen such a thing. I have seen fish thrown from the wharf, but not scow loads unfit for canning.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well, sir, if that is all, and you have nothing more to represent to us, that will do.

It being 12.30 p.m. the Chairman declared the Commission adjourned, to meet again in the same place at 1.30 p.m.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., 26th February, 1892.

Afternoon Session.

The Commission assembled in the Court House and was called to order by the Chair at 2 o'clock, p.m.

Present:—S. Wilmot, Esq., in the Chair; Mr. Sheriff Armstrong, and Mr. C. F. Winter, Secretary.

JOHN J. McDONALD, a native of Nova Scotia, a resident of British Columbia for over seven years, now living some eight miles above New Westminster and describing himself as a practical fisherman, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Do you desire to make any remarks upon the fisheries of the Fraser River or elsewhere in this province?—A. Well, I desire to inform you that I have been refused a license for the last three years, I think.

Q. You regularly applied for it?—A. I applied at the office here.

Q. Was any reason given why you should not have it?—A. Yes; there was a little reason why I should not have it—the first year I fished on the river with another man who had a license—the second year I didn't take the trouble to come to town to get a license of my own, not knowing there ever would be a limit. The manager of the British America Factory supplied me with a license.

Q. Was it written in your name?—A. No; not that I know of—my name was not on the books the following year when I applied for license.

Q. Then you do not know if it was in your name or not?—A. I think not—I am not prepared to say. Three years I applied for a license and they told me I should not have a license because I did not have a license the year before. I had to go to work in a cannery.

Q. In the cannery or with a boat and net?—A. No; I went to work net mending in connection with the cannery.

Q. Before going any further were you not a fisherman in Nova Scotia?—A. Yes, sir; I fished salmon in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

Q. What induced you to come here?—A. Well, I came here thinking there would be good chances of going into fishing or sailing on the coast.

Q. Well, you could not get any license and had to work in the canneries?—A. Yes, sir; I had to work in canneries, or at least the fourth year as I might say.

Q. That was in '91—last year?—A. In the year before—I was refused a license and had to go to Point Roberts.

Q. In the United States?—A. Yes; I went there and tried to get up a trap—I had no means to put out the kind of trap suitable for the place, so I made a failure of it.

Q. Is it trap-nets they fish at Point Roberts or pound-nets?—A. "Pound-nets" I think they should properly be called—pound-nets and seines.

Q. And you could not get on there?—A. Yes; for want of means I could not get on there.

Q. What then?—A. The following year again I could not get a license so I had to go up into the upper country to work.

Q. Lumbering?—A. No; I went up building a telegraph line. Last year I did not apply for license thinking I would not get any, so I was appointed guardian on the river—I asked for the appointment and got it.

Q. Where were you working at on the river?—A. I was appointed for Coquitlam, but the inspector put me down on the North Arm.

Q. And your guardianship extends how far—the whole of the North Arm?—A. The whole of the North Arm—from Westminster down to the Sand Heads.

Q. The Sand Heads? How far out from Sea Island?—A. About a mile and a half or two miles beyond Sea Island.

Q. Well, that distance from Westminster is how many miles?—A. I call it 18 miles—that was my limit. I was living here in town with my family and I went over the route.

Q. Daily or nightly?—A. I generally went down one day and came back next, or as it happened I generally got towed back and forth by tugs and steam-boats.

Q. Do tugs come up the North Arm to Westminster?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How many canneries are there on the North Arm?—A. Two in operation.

Q. Where situated?—A. One on a small island between Sea Island and Lulu Island.

Q. Whose cannery is that?—A. It is called the Sea Island cannery—I think it is also called "Munn & Co."

Q. Where is the other one situated?—A. On a small island between Sea Island and the mainland.

Q. Near the North Arm road?—A. Yes; it is not far from the North Arm road coming across from Vancouver.

Q. Whose is that?—A. I understand it belongs to Todd & Sons, or "Todd & Co.," I am not sure which.

Q. What else do you wish to represent before we ask any questions particularly?—A. Well, I don't know as I have any grievance of my own particularly.

Q. As a guardian on the river, was the law carried out?—A. Well, I have only had occasion to take one boat and net.

Q. What for?—A. Fishing two boats under the one license.

Q. Had both of them numbers on?—A. Yes, they had.

Q. Then, they were improperly numbered?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is that the only case of that kind that occurred?—A. Yes, the only one I knew of.

Q. It is very possible there might be others?—A. Well, I don't know—I watched them pretty well. It might be possible there were cases I didn't know anything about.

Q. And the extent of territory you had to go over would almost forbid you seeing everything going on?—A. Yes, it would forbid me from seeing unless I made more trips up the river.

Q. Now, as to the canneries—were there any violations of the law by them?—A. No violations that I have seen.

Q. Do you know that it is against the law to throw offal into the river?—A. I was not informed of it.

Q. Was offal from these canneries thrown in?—A. Well, they let it slide into the river.

Q. Are these canneries built upon the land or on piles out in the river?—A. Well, they are partly on piles and partly on the land—the greater portion is on the land.

Q. Where the offal slides down, is land underneath or water?—A. Water.

Q. How deep may the water be there?—A. Well, I could not say—I never happened to sound it; probably there would be 8 or 9 feet or there might be 18 or 20 feet.

Q. There might be 6 feet?—A. I don't know as there is any of them that has as low as 6 feet—it might be 10 feet or more.

Q. Is there much current or a rapid flow of water?—A. Yes; a pretty rapid flow?

Q. As strong there as out in the middle of the channel?—A. Well, at Sea Island Cannery I would say it was; the tide strikes towards the land there.

Q. How wide is the river at the North Arm?—A. It might be approximately one-third of a mile.

Q. And does the principal channel of the river run in the middle?—A. I could not say which side of that island is the principal channel.

Q. Have you noticed if offal put in there is carried away at once or eaten up by little fish?—A. Some possibly might be carried away and some remain and be eaten up. The current is very strong and might carry it away.

Q. Have you been in a cannery when the offal is slid down?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you noticed if the offal stayed there or was carried away?—A. No, not particularly. A few years ago they used to have cribs made to hold the offal. I think that was very injurious to the fish.

Q. What fish?—A. The salmon.

Q. In what way?—A. Well, it was left there to rot.

Q. How are these cribs or bins constructed?—A. Well, they are constructed by having a large box-like place made of one by four lumber and with a vacancy of one to two inches between the slats.

Q. What might be the size of these bins—10 feet square?—A. Well, I am not prepared to say exactly.

Q. Would they be one foot square?—A. Well, I suppose they would be about 10 feet square.

Q. What depth?—A. Well, they were generally built along the bank; they might be 6 or 10 feet at the outside. They were made to suit the bank and bottom of the river, and I think it was injurious to salmon, because it remained there and became rotten.

Q. Then, why was it kept in these bins?—A. Because it was thought better, and would not annoy the fish or the nets.

Q. Then, if it floated out in the river they thought it would affect the run of fish there?—A. Yes; in some cases there might be some little parts of offal that the air gets in, and it will blow up and float like a small nautilus on the water, and it prevents the fish from coming.

Q. And cribs were put there to prevent this?—A. Yes.

Q. Had both canneries you speak of these cribs?—A. No; at Sea Island Cannery I don't think there was any; at the other cannery they had made a shoot. I don't know how they worked it, but it was so as to run, in case the law was enforced, to run the offal into a canoe and have it carried away.

Q. Was it ever run into canoes and carried away?—A. No, sir.

Q. Then the canoes were not used and the offal went into the river?—A. It went into the river.

Q. Then, from what you know of the matter it was the impression of cannery there that its going into the river would affect the fish and the nets?—A. Well, I don't know what their opinion is. It was my opinion.

Q. And what do you think as regards health—any settlers there?—A. Yes.

Q. What occupation?—A. Farming.

Q. Were any complaints made to you as an officer that offal was injurious?—A. No, sir.

Q. What is your own opinion on the subject?—A. Well, when offal is thrown in—when the tide backs up the river, it may go on places and rest there at high water when the tide falls, but I think if let go when current and tide are running strong out, it would not injure anything—it would go away.

Q. Then the effect of bins underneath canneries would be to prevent that?—A. Yes; in my opinion the bins were a very bad system.

Q. And this offal that floats back and gets on the land does it decay there?—A. Yes; some will dry and decay and then float.

Q. What effect on the inhabitants has it—is it offensive?—A. Yes; it smells pretty bad when it rests on those shore places.

Q. You have never heard the opinion of settlers living there?—A. No.

Q. If you lived there yourself what would you think?—A. Well, I would think that what was thrown out when the tide backs up would be a little offensive—it would be only a small portion that would get on those shoals. I have drunk the water every night a number of seasons now and never found it affect my own health.

Q. Do you ever put anything in the water you drink there?—A. No sir (laughter).

Q. Could it (the offal) not be conveniently carried off in scows to a reasonable distance or out into deep water in the Straits of Georgia?—A. If the law was enforced they intended, I know, to carry it away.

Q. But you received no instructions to enforce the law in regard to offal?—A. No, sir.

Q. But you were aware it was the law?—A. No; not particularly.

Q. Are there many Indians fishing about Sea Island?—A. Yes; quite a number.

Q. What are the fish principally caught there?—A. Sockeye are the principal salmon caught there.

Q. Do you know anything about the usual catch in a day or season?—A. Oh, I don't go in there of a day—but as many as a boat would carry, say two, or four hundred fish—I think some of them carry that.

Q. Have you any idea what the average catch of a boat would be during a season there?—A. Well, I have never heard.

A. Would it be 1,000, 3,000 or 10,000?—A. Well, I have heard but I really forget, but I think some went over 4,000.

Q. Had you ever heard of any catching as many as 8,000?—A. No; I have not heard, but I would say if they were allowed to fish all the time and canneries take the fish from them they would catch that number—some do catch 8,000.

Q. And you say if they could sell their fish—are the canneries filled up sometimes that they would not take fish?—A. Yes; I have heard they were—that is for a short time.

Q. And the fish that are caught in that way and brought to the canneries and the canneries cannot take them—what are done with them?—A. They are generally salted—the fishermen are only supposed to fetch in so many.

Q. Yes; but if a man catches 400 salmon when he goes away?—A. No; but they generally get away with the first catch and then they are generally limited to 400 for a boat, that is those who are selling to the canneries, and then they (the cannery) very often keep in their own boats.

Q. And are all salted—do you know of any thrown away?—A. Oh, not many—a few.

Q. What do you call a few?—A. In a poor time I would call a couple of thousand a few. (Laughter.)

Q. This is done by whites and Indians both?—A. Well, there are few licenses on that route given to Indians. I could not say how many.

Q. Have you anything to do with issuing licenses?—A. No, sir; I have nothing to do but guard the river.

Q. This excessive quantity of fish are generally of the sockeye family, are they?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. In June and July?—A. The latter part of June, July and August.

Q. And is the North Arm a good place for spring salmon?—A. No, it is not good for spring salmon.

Q. Are cohoes caught?—A. Yes; quite a few.

Q. What is done with them?—A. They are packed sometimes, but I don't know of it, myself.

Q. The principal business is with the sockeye?—A. Yes.

Q. What size of mesh do you fish with there?—A. Six-inch, extension measure.

Q. And the length of the net?—A. Oh, they have all lengths—the regulation length is 150 fathoms.

Q. How many meshes deep?—A. Thirty generally on the North Arm—some may have forty meshes.

Q. The fish you have known to be thrown away—would they be from Indians and others who have licenses, or from cannery boats?—A. From both. In some cases I have known the cannerymen to have bought the fish and then could neither salt them or pack them, and have thrown them away; but I never knew but of one case to my own knowledge.

Q. Was this a pretty large quantity, then?—A. Something like 2,000.

Q. Do fish come mixed—red and white?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is done with those caught red and white—you say the canneries do not work them?—A. The Indians generally take them and prepare them for their own use. The Indians generally have liberty to take the white salmon and dry them for their own use.

Q. What season of the year would that be?—A. Oh, all parts of the year—there has been a few white salmon canned, but they are not considered marketable.

Q. Have you known any white salmon to be thrown away because not marketable?—A. I have thrown away a few myself, so I suppose others would do so.

Q. And the few you threw away—what number would it amount to in a season?—

A. Forty or fifty during a season—I would not have time to salt for my own use.

Q. But you would not throw red ones away?—A. No, sir.

Q. What is the difference in the quality of the flesh—white and red?—A. In the early part of the season they are just as good.

Q. Neither is red later on in the season—are they?—A. No, they are not; but there is not so much difference. There is greater difference between spring and fall in white salmon than in red salmon.

Q. Have you heard complaints on the river of fishermen being unable to get licenses to fish?—A. Well, I have known half a dozen—approximately, there might be more who could not get licenses. They were people who came into the country—principally Scotchmen. They were fishing for canneries and fishing cannery boats—on shares, I suppose.

Q. Were these good, deserving men?—A. Yes, sir; they were all good, deserving men, and were doing very good work fishing for the canneries, as far as I know.

Q. Is it more profitable for a man to fish with his own boat than for a cannery?—A. It is more profitable for him to fish his own boat.

Q. What number of boat licenses would keep each of these canneries running in your section?—A. Well, I would say, in a very poor season when the fish strike in probably for a few days, fifteen or twenty boats would keep them going.

Q. I mean the season through?—A. Oh, well, taking the season through, with the exception of those few days, I think they would get away with forty or fifty boats—some of them more, according to the capacity of the cannery.

Q. Have you an idea of what the capacity of a cannery is—say those down near you—15,000 or 20,000 cases?—A. Something like that, I suppose. If there was a good market, they could put up quite a few more than they do.

Q. Ordinarily, how many boats are required to get a fair catch?—A. Oh, ordinarily, I think forty boats.

Q. They could not supply their canneries with twenty-five boats?—A. Not unless they got outside fishermen.

Q. Are you aware of the law regarding the weekly close time?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is it well kept?—A. I don't find any people encroaching.

Q. Did you ever find any violation of it?—A. None last summer.

Q. And the year before when fishing yourself, did you violate it?—A. No, sir.

Q. Are all fishermen that you now have jurisdiction over content, or is there any discontent among them that they would rather not fish on Sunday?—A. I never heard any. I think some would like to fish on Sunday if they could. I never heard any complaining of having to go out on Sunday night.

Q. There are some men who would rather not go?—A. Well, I have not come across them yet.

Q. As an officer on this river, what are your findings as to the hatchery on the river—beneficial or otherwise?—A. My opinion is that it has been beneficial.

Q. Do you think it should be increased, remain as it is, or enlarged?—A. I think, in the interest of the fisheries, it should be enlarged, so as more canneries should get in operation.

Q. What is your idea as to the class of people who should get licenses?—A. I think anybody should who got into a boat and fished. They should be entitled to fish, provided he is a British subject and resident fisherman.

Q. All entitled to one license?—A. One license, if they wish to get it.

Q. What do you think of a man selling his license to his neighbour?—A. I don't think that is correct—it should not be transferable.

Q. Have you had anything to do with the coast fisheries?—A. No; I was only employed for three months. I have fished in Cowichan Bay, on Vancouver Island.

Q. What were you fishing for?—A. Salmon—I fished with a seine.

Q. What sort of a seine—what length?—A. I think about eighty and 100 fathoms.

Q. And what depth?—A. I think the "pound" would be about ten fathoms.

Q. And the arms?—A. Would be less.

Q. What sized mesh did you use?—A. I think the smallest in it was three and a-half inches extension.

Q. Was the bag portion any different?—A. The bag was three and a half.

Q. And the arms?—A. Five to six inches—the nearer you go to the arms the larger the mesh.

Q. And the working of the seine—would the lead-lines drag on the bottom?—A. Well, in some cases they use drag stones when the lead-lines go to the bottom. In other cases they fish in deep water, and they purse them in, and the lead-lines never get to the bottom.

Q. Then you know of purse seines in the Atlantic?—A. Yes.

Q. What view is entertained of purse seines on the Atlantic?—A. Well, by those fishing along shore, that it breaks up the schools of mackerel and interferes with the run of fish.

Q. If the purse seine were used on the coast here would it be more dangerous here than drifting, and catch more salmon?—A. Well, as a rule, they cannot be used in the mouth of rivers, or near the mouths of rivers.

Q. Why not?—A. So many drift logs and things of that kind.

Q. Then, where are they used?—A. Out in the estuaries.

Q. And would drift nets or seines be more injurious—which would catch more fish?—A. Oh, the seine would catch more fish.

Q. And if the seine were drawn across the mouth of a river would fish come up?—A. Oh, that would injure the run of fish.

Q. With regard to the mesh of a seine and a gill-net—would $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch mesh take more fish than $5\frac{1}{4}$ -inch mesh?—A. No; a 5-inch mesh in the "pound" of a seine would not be strong enough—the idea is to have them so as to let the fish mesh.

Q. With $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch mesh, they would not, but would with 5-inch?—A. They would not—or at least not many of them.

Q. You think, upon the whole, that a seine is more destructive than a drift net?

A. Yes; salmon as a rule will not gill into a net in clean water outside.

Q. And therefore you use seines to get around them and they are more destructive?—A. Yes, they are more destructive.

Q. And you think also that the use of seines at the mouth of a river or its estuary would be injurious to the passage of fish up river?—A. To a certain extent some say than a drift net—a drift net will not pay in clean water.

Q. What other fish do you catch besides salmon in your seine?—A. A few dog-fish, a few trout, a few rock cod.

Q. What do you call "trout"?—A. They are like young salmon.

Q. What weight?—A. 2½ to 4 pounds.

Q. Is there anything else caught in the bag of the net less than 4 pounds?—A. I think there has been a few.

Q. Do you know what a smolt is?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you know what a "parr" is? It is much smaller than a "smolt."—A. No; we don't get any of these.

Q. What are done with the little fellows when caught?—A. They were salting them—some were sent to Vancouver market.

Q. Were any thrown away on shore as being useless?—A. No; the Indians take them.

Q. Were they caught in considerable numbers?—A. Oh, it depends upon the season.

Q. Some seasons you would catch considerable numbers?—A. Well, I never fished there except the one season—I may have caught a couple of thousands of them.

Q. Would you catch herring, too?—A. No, sir; I never caught herring.

Q. You have no mackerel here?—A. No, sir.

Q. Then having fished on the coast you could give some idea as to the relative value of the fishing in the Northern Rivers and on the Fraser River—is it just that \$20 should be paid here and only \$5 on the upper rivers?—A. Well, I would say like this—there is a better market for fish here, and the fishermen can better afford to.

Q. But can a canneryman better afford to pay \$20 here than he could on the Skeena?—A. Well, I don't know.

Q. But a man who runs 40 boats on the Skeena, could he afford to pay more—there should be equality?—A. No; I think not—it is more expensive to get up north and labour is harder to get.

Q. Then you think the present system about right?—A. Well, I am not posted enough on these northern rivers to give an idea. I have only fished a while over in Cowichan. I am not prepared to give an opinion as to whether the license fee is too much or not, not being aware of the disadvantages up the coast.

Q. What is the average weight of fish caught down the river?—A. When they first come in they are smaller than afterwards—I think one-half a pound less; the second run would be larger.

Q. What right through would be the average of sockeye salmon?—A. I would say six and a half pounds.

Q. Right through the season?—A. Yes; of course I am not very sure.

Q. If another said seven and a half or eight, you would not say he was wrong?—A. Well, if a man said eight I would say he was wrong.

Q. I suppose you are not well acquainted with the internal working of the canneries?—A. No; not the particulars inside.

Q. Do you think, as an officer, that the limits on which you have to perform your duties are too large for you to efficiently do those duties?—A. Well, no; there is not a great number of boats; I think a change should be made now and then; another officer should take my place; the fishermen generally get their eyes on to an officer, and it would be well to change the officers now and then.

Q. But would a new man know the boats at a new place as well?—A. Well, but he would have better chances of catching offenders.

Q. Well, have you anything else to offer?—A. Well, there are streams up the river and people living along there who destroy fish in the fall of the year.

Q. What creeks have you reference to?—A. Well, those I know of are: The Serpentine, flowing into Mud Bay, and the Nicomekle.

Q. The fish go up there to breed?—A. Yes; in the head waters.

Q. What are they principally?—A. Cohoes principally.

Q. Any sockeyes?—A. No, I think not.

Q. And the inhabitants catch them late in the season? How late? In the month of October, or when?—A. In the month of October—that is, I think, the spawning season. Then there are other little branches coming into the Fraser—Salmon River, at Longley.

Q. You speak of the spawning season of cohoes being in October and November—have you any knowledge of the spawning season of sockeye at other places?—A. No; I have seen them up country the season before last, going through the Quesnell River up in Cariboo; I have seen them pass under the bridge there in October.

Q. Have you seen them actually spawning?—A. No; I think they go up farther than that.

Q. Do you know when spring salmon spawn?—A. No, sir; I am not prepared to say.

Q. Then you draw attention to the propriety of having these smaller rivers looked after during the spawning season?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is there anything else you would like to refer to? As an officer, you are generally supposed to know more of the fisheries than other people?—A. Well, it is generally supposed that salmon here is the same as that on the Atlantic coast, but I think different.

Q. What difference is there between the spring salmon here and the salmon on the Atlantic coast?—A. The most particular difference is that salmon on this river are longer in proportion to their size than fish there, and they have a different taste, and are more substantial food than Atlantic salmon.

Q. How do you make out more substantial food?—A. Well you can eat a larger quantity, larger than of Atlantic.

Q. Well, that would not be more substantial, because you would have to eat two salmon here then to one there. (Laughter.)—A. Well, probably I made a mistake in the word.

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh, well, we are all liable to that. What rivers have you fished on on the Atlantic coast?—A. I never fished on rivers; I have fished in St. George's Bay, and have caught salmon, also in Port-au-Port Bay in Newfoundland.

Q. And you cannot say anything about other portions of the Atlantic Provinces, except where you have fished?—A. Well, there is the same difference between all the fish there in different places.

Q. Well, but would that make a difference here wherever they are different grade in different rivers?—A. Well, the feel of the fish is different—what I mean to say is that fish there are more substantial.

Q. Oh, I see you reverse it—you said these salmon were more substantial?—A. Yes, I mean the reverse.

Q. Do you know of any other difference?—A. The tail of the salmon there is not so broad as here.

Q. But if I tell you that the salmon's tail will vary with the river in which they have to travel?—It is a fact that the tail of the salmon will be firmer for this river than for a slower stream— if salmon have to go up a muddy sluggish river its tail will be different to that of the fish that has to go up a rapid clear water. So you see that is no real difference in the fish. And is that the only difference you know of?—A. That is the only difference.

Q. Is there any salmon resembling sockeye on the Atlantic coast that you know of?—A. I never saw any.

Q. Have you seen the grilse—young salmon of 3 and 4 pounds weight?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Would they resemble sockeye?—A. Well, I don't think they would resemble them so much.

Q. Would they not be silvery and bright?—A. Yes, they would be—they resemble what the fish caught here in winter are more than any other—they are called "silver sides," but I have never caught them—they come into the markets in winter.

Q. Are "silver sides" red-meated?—A. They are a little paler.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Then they would resemble more the grilse of the Atlantic. Have you anything further?—A. No, nothing further.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, we are much obliged to you—that will do, thank you.

JAMES A. LAIDLAW, a native of Scotland, living in British Columbia since 1862, a salmon canner, and at present residing in New Westminster, was duly sworn.

Mr. LAIDLAW.—Mr. Chairman, I am not well enough to answer questions, but would prefer putting in this statement as my evidence, and I will be willing to answer any question you may wish to ask. (Mr. Laidlaw thereupon handed to the Chairman the following statement which was read and ordered to be inserted in the Minutes):—

To the Royal Commission now being held in New Westminster.

GENTLEMEN.—“Many thanks for allowing me to give my evidence in writing, instead of verbal, on account of my health.

“*Re* placing offal in the river: I do not think it can be of the slightest injury to the salmon running in the river.

“1. The greater part of the offal is eaten by scavenger fish in a short time after it is put in the river.

“2. I think feeding the scavenger fish here, keeps them from going to the spawning grounds to destroy the spawn there.

“3. We know that millions of the salmon die up the river and lie putrifying in the small streams and shoals, which must be worse than the small portion of the salmon that the cannery return to the river. In a good season the cannery and their employees must use from eight to ten thousand tons of good fish, besides the offal. If those 9,000 tons were let pass, the great majority of them would be lying putrifying the same as those that do reach the spawning grounds.

“4. So, for the same reasons, I do not think that from a sanitary view the present manner of disposing of it can be injurious.”

Re Licenses:

“Formerly the canneries had forty boats, then they were cut down to about twenty-four—last year cut down to twenty. With twenty-five boats each cannery would still have to employ quite a number of outside licenses to run their canneries so that unless it is the intention of the department to make the capital invested in canneries non-productive, they surely will not place us entirely at the mercy of the fishermen.

“2. By having twenty-five boats, each cannery employs a number of Indians, and their women and their children help in the cannery. Those Indians, by getting employment in the canneries are self-supporting, and, though wards of the Dominion, get little, if any support from them. Without licenses we cannot help the Indians.”

Re Hatchery:

“For my part I have not the slightest doubt that the hatchery is a benefit and will be a benefit. I am only sorry to see the money raised here as a special tax on fishing licenses to assist in propagating salmon here, should be taken back east to bonus eastern fishermen, or perhaps worse, instead of using it here to build more hatcheries. And any other manner that may assist in propagating the fish where the special tax is raised for the purpose, as I believe. I can only think that any one asserting that the hatchery is no use, must do so from prejudice. Certainly, the salmon were more plentiful last year than on former poor years. There were parties that said it was no use before it was a year built, and some of them, as usual, are of the same opinion still. I am very sorry that more are not being built. I think we might then have enough of fish and stop this squabbling.”

Re Close time—Sunday:

“1. Several close times have been tried, but the present close time, I think, far the best for both the Indian and the employer. With a long lay-off it would be hard to get them in their boats before Monday noon, and then many of them of little use, as there are plenty of men ready to provide them with whiskey. A change from the present would, I believe, be very detrimental to all concerned.

“2. That a local commission or local advisory board should be appointed for the province. That they should acquire as thorough a knowledge as possible of the habits of the salmon and all requirements to propagate and continue the industry, was strongly recommended by a committee of the Cannery Association, 4th February, 1891.

"I thoroughly endorsed the report of that committee and have seen no reason to change my mind but would like to add that all the money raised from licenses should be spent in the province to build more hatcheries and propagate salmon generally.

"Yours respectfully,
(Sgd.) "J. A. LAIDLAW."

(Representing with T. E. Ladner and R. P. Rithet, seven canneries on the coast—five on Fraser River, one on Skeena and one on Naas Rivers.)

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. You say about throwing offal in the river—you say it is not the slightest injury to salmon running in there?—A. I do. I have been fishing here for fifteen years, and certainly the fish are not fewer now than when we started, and for that reason I certainly cannot think the offal is injurious that is run in.

Q. What effect has it from a sanitary stand-point?—A. Well, I suppose, as far as sanitary considerations go—as I state they take out 7,000 or 8,000 tons of fish from the river, and if we didn't take them out, they would lie putrifying like the rest of them do, or most of them.

Q. Was the river very much polluted when you came here or before?—A. Well, I cannot say, as I cannot tell any difference between then and now.

Q. But if all went up and died, the river would be in the same position as then?—A. I don't say all die.

Q. Well, but would it not be in the same position as before?—A. Well, the difference is this: The offal is seen down here and the people think it offensive, but if they would only go up there and see the thousands putrifying like they do, they would think it very little.

Q. Then if not caught, the fish would take their entrails and other offal up with them?—(Laughter.)

Mr. LAIDLAW.—Then most of the offal we put in the river is eaten up by the scavenger fish in the river.

Q. Then you think if these fish went up the river these scavenger fish would follow them and eat the dead?—A. Well, I don't know. I have thought that by feeding these scavenger fish, we keep them from going up to eat the spawn up the river.

Q. Then you also keep them from eating the dead fish up there?—(Laughter.)—A. Well, I know they eat up the spawn at the canneries very voraciously. I have seen them often.

Q. Well, I cannot see this 9,000 tons of fish as you do?—A. Well, if you will figure it you will see this 9,000 tons of fish are good fish—not offal, but good fish.

Q. 9,000 tons of whole fish?—A. Yes; 9,000. You think it does not come in the river? Any man can figure it up in two and a half minutes—I well know that, of course.

Q. Then you think offal not injurious to either fish or the human family?—A. I do not.

Q. You say that millions of salmon die up river and in small streams, and which must be worse than the offal put in? There are few inhabitants there, are there?—A. Well, but do not all those putrid matters come down this river, and though they don't see it, they drink it?

Q. Then what a man don't see, he knows nothing about?—A. Well, there is something in that. Certainly rotten matter on the banks and washing into the stream, it all goes down.

Q. But it has been shown that disease is created in some sloughs, and when left on the shore by the tide it must be worse than the essence coming down the river?—A. Well, I have seen reports from a doctor who says it was not an injury.

Q. Doctors differ and patients die, you know?—A. Well, I am not a doctor and, of course, I leave that point for the department to decide. In my opinion, it is not injurious either to fish or the human family.

Q. In your establishment do you drop offal right down under the floor of the cannery?—A. No; we use it in an oil factory.

Q. Did you think it advisable to use it in an oil factory?—A. No, we didn't think it anything of the kind; but the Department said they were going to enforce the law, and we went into it and had a loss. The Department then acted like fools—they neither enforced it or anything else, after putting us to all this expense.

Q. Then, you went into it because the Department wanted you to?—A. No, but because we understood it was to be enforced—we had to build another cannery just through the vacillation of the Department.

Q. How did the oil factory turn out?—A. It was not a success. I heard that a party came in this morning and reported that Mr. McNeely had bought a quantity of the oil—some 2,000 gallons or something of that kind.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I don't know as that was what he actually said—perhaps, if the secretary will turn back to his minutes of Mr. Arthur's evidence, it may be explained.

The secretary thereupon read from his minutes of Mr. Arthur's evidence regarding his reference to the oil and Mr. McNeely, to the satisfaction of the chairman and witness.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. You have made oil, then, from refuse, and it has not been profitable?—A. No; it has not been sold for 50 cents a gallon—not from our factory.

Q. Or anywhere else?—A. Well, I could not tell you that.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Could you tell how much it sold for?—A. About 35 cents a gallon.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. And the quantity you manufactured?—A. Well, I could not tell you—you must ask Mr. Ladner about that.

Q. Cannot you come near the quantity—5,000 gallons or 10,000 gallons?—A. Oh, something near 100 barrels.

Q. Each barrel would hold how much?—A. About forty gallons, as near as I can state to the best of my knowledge.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—How many canneries did you take offal from to manufacture this?

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. And from what canneries?—A. I did figure it up, but I have forgotten just the number of boats we took it from.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. But that is not what we want—we want to know how many canneries you took this offal from to make this oil?—A. If you will wait a moment, I will give you both answers—(consulting papers) We took offal from about 160 fishing boats—from about six canneries.

Q. Could you name the canneries, Mr. Laidlaw?—A. Well, there is one of them that was not running; still, I had the boats for them.

Q. But the names?—A. Delta Canning Company, Harlock Canning Company, Findlay, Durham and Brodie, and Wellington.

Q. Did Wadhams?—A. I don't think he did—any one was welcome to send it.

Q. They didn't send all the offal, did they?—A. I think so—we wanted more at the factory.

Q. But did all these five canneries you refer to send all offal down to the factory?—A. I think so—I could not swear to it—the factory wanted more, consequently I suppose they got all was there.

Q. How was the offal conveyed to the factory?—A. We sent it in steamers and scows—we were in our own business at the time and sent it down—the offal went down in our own boats.

Q. Well, how much more could your factory have manufactured if they had got the offal?—A. I could not answer that—I could not even give it approximately.

Q. But could you have consumed as much again if you could get the offal? Five canneries sent their offal down to the factory which was made into oil and other products—could the factory have made up the offal from five others if it had been sent?—A. That I cannot tell you now—but they could have manufactured a good deal more.

Q. Could they have manufactured as much again?—A. Well, I cannot tell—they could have manufactured more.

Q. And in manufacturing the oil you did make—from a financial stand-point did it pay you?—A. No.

Q. Did you ever make an estimate of the loss?—A. Mr. Ladner was in charge of that part of the business more than I was—I cannot give a definite answer.

Q. From the experience you have had in connection with this one oil factory consuming the offal of five canneries, could other establishments be put up that would consume all the offal?—A. Well, you know there is nothing that cannot be done.

Q. Then it is a mere matter of expenditure and trial to do it?—A. Yes, but the question is—is it of any value or benefit to any one—it is a loss to us I can tell you that.

Mr. WILMOT.—It is the first year you have tried. Is it not a fact that many industries fail the first year and afterwards succeed? Was the first year you went into the cannery business profitable?—A. No, sir; it was not.

Q. And the following year it was more profitable?—A. Well, I think if some of those extraordinary witnesses you had here knew how we were the first year we started they would not have given evidence they did. I will tell you, Mr. Wilmot, it is very easy when you have made \$30,000 or \$40,000 or \$50,000 out of it—are you going to leave it? I have lost \$10,000 in a year—no one knew anything of that—every man got his pay—nobody knew of my loss—that was no one's business but mine. I know that in some years we made more than we can now.

Q. And those profitable years were more profitable than you can make now?—A. Well, some were, but I certainly understood the business just as well then as I do today, but the thing was this—there was a surplus in the market—the demand was not equal to the supply and the price went down to \$3.50, and you know how much money you can make out of it at \$3.50?

Q. Then on the whole the oil factory has not been profitable?—A. No.

Q. You say in regard to licenses that 25 licenses would not be enough but that each cannery would still have to employ outside licenses to run their canneries, so that unless it is the intention of the Government to make the capital invested in canneries non-productive, they surely will not place us entirely at the mercy of the fishermen. This may bring up some other questions.—A. All right, sir; as long as I am able to speak I am ready to answer.

Q. Can you give the average number of fish taken by each boat during the season?—A. No, I have no notes for that, but I can get them from the books for you if you wish.

Q. You had one year 40 boats—would they average 3,000, 4,000 or 6,000 salmon?—A. No; I will tell you—I saw a report from some witness you had—

Mr. WILMOT.—I don't think you should refer to witnesses who have testified here under oath.—A. Oh, well, as to averaging that number, we cannot do anything of the kind. I was told by one man that he could go out with a bottle of whiskey and a boat and get more fish than with a net; but we never could get any catches of fish like you have been told.

Q. Then you cannot give the numbers of fish delivered by boat—the average delivery?—A. No; there are two good years, you know.

Q. Well, take two good years—what average then?—A. Well, I cannot tell; in poor years I have seen men come in without fish in their boat, and we had to pay them \$2 and \$2.25 for doing it, and these same would come other times with 300, or 400 sometimes—generally 200.

Q. And how long would the average season last?—A. Between four and five weeks—you can count on four weeks, perhaps more; but you must not take 300 or 400 as the average fish to a boat: I never got such an average, neither from contractors or others.

Q. Well, some have stated they could catch 3,000 and 4,000 during a season, and some as high as 10,000—then your average of 300 and 400 would not hold good on the whole?—A. Certainly not, certainly not; that would be for a single day.

Mr. WILMOT.—Have you any recollection of taking 700 or 800 in one day?—A. From contractors I think I have taken as many as that—that would be in 24 hours. You know our own men fish for ten or twelve hours; two men go into a boat and go out, and as soon as they come in and get the boat cleaned out, etc., two other men get in and they go out.

Q. And do ordinary fishermen fish 24 hours?—A. No; they generally fish on what we call "tides," you know.

Q. Then four men in one boat would have opportunity of fishing longer than two men in one boat?—A. Well, if two men go out in the night, cannot they fish till morning, and if two men go out in the morning cannot they fish till night?

Mr. WILMOT.—Yes; but if ordinary fishermen (2 men) go out, can they fish day and night?—A. Not very well.

Q. Well, then, won't they have an advantage over outside men?—A. Well, I think we get fully as much from our own men as from contractors, taking it for the full 24 hours.

Q. What is the usual size of fish?—A. Well, that is very hard to answer.

Q. If you get 10,000 fish in a day, will they vary very much in size—Sockeye?—A. Well, in a good season it takes eleven or twelve fish to make a case—at least that is my experience—the fish are then smaller; in a poor year I have seen nine salmon make a case—the fish are then larger.

Q. What is the usual calculation of cans from a fish as an average?—A. Well, you see a case is 48 cans; you can very easily figure on that.

Q. Are any of these fish brought in to you when a heavy rush of fish is on hand—can you convert all the fish into use without any loss? A. Yes; almost invariably, and for this reason: we have put up as much as 20,000 salmon in a day in each cannery. We can put up 100 barrels of salt salmon in addition to what we can; 1,360 cases and 100 barrels is the most we ever put up in a day.

Q. How many fish in a barrel?—A. Oh, about 50—I cannot tell exactly—it is in the vicinity of 50.

Q. Well, that would make very nearly 14,000 fish in a day?—A. Well, there you are away out in the pack of salmon canned.

Q. No; I just take what you have said—taking 10 fish to the case?—A. I don't say 10 fish to the case, I said 12 fish.

Q. That is, 12 would be in a good year?—A. Yes; do you suppose it would be a poor year?

Q. Then, 12 salmon to the case in that year?—A. Yes.

Q. And 100 barrels and 50 salmon in a barrel—well, that would be upwards of 16,000 fish?—A. Well, yes; that is all right—we have been caught sometimes like that when we get 20,000 salmon on the wharf. As soon as we do, every one of our men knows that with three blasts of the whistle we have all the fish we can use, and they at once come in with what fish they have, and what fish we don't put up that day we do so the first thing in the morning.

Q. And they are always fit to put up?—A. Well, we never put up all the fish; it would not pay.

Q. Well, those that would not be suitable—do you ever give them to the Indians?—A. Oh, we do—oh, yes; they come and take them away. Whatever the Indians don't take away we shove overboard. They are not fit for our purposes.

Q. Do you call them "short" then, or what is the name?—A. Well, I don't know any name; I can tell them when I feel them.

Q. I thought perhaps you had a name for them?—A. Well, I can tell them when I feel them.

Q. They feed the little fishes I suppose?—(laughter)—A. Oh, no; do you know they never touch them; they have far better things—they eat the spawn.

Q. Well, then, don't they eat the other parts then?—A. Well, afterwards they would, but they never do that until the other is done.

Q. Do you think all *bonâ fide* British subjects and regular men who come here should get a license if they want one?—A. I have nothing in the world to do with that; that belongs to the Dominion Government.

Q. Well, do you think cannerymen should get all the licenses they want?—A. I think the cannerymen ought to get 25 boats as a kind of protection. They have spent their money and have invested heavily in the business. They then will have to get outsiders to catch the fish they want.

Q. Then, should they have licenses?—A. Well, it is a matter for the Dominion Government. I have no objection to outside fishermen getting licenses; still, it is a matter that does not belong to me at all.

Q. And is it a matter for you as to what licenses cannerymen should get?—A. Oh, certainly; it is self comes first.

Q. And you think fishermen should get licenses, and all that apply for them?—A. Well, that is a matter for the Dominion Government.

Q. Well, do you think all cannerymen who put up new canneries should get licenses?—A. Well, I know nothing about it; that is not a matter for me. I put up a cannery myself.

Q. But don't you think they should get licenses?—A. Oh, yes; they should be given licenses.

Q. But this Commission was appointed to look into these matters and report to the Government on them and we want to get all the information we can so as to post them?—A. Well, we have time and time again given our views, and they don't pay any more attention to them than to the bark of a dog. I am tired giving my views to the Dominion Government.

Q. Do you belong to the syndicate?—A. Well, no; we don't belong to that syndicate. I don't know as you can call us the syndicate—we represent seven canneries on the coast—five on the Fraser River and two up north.

Q. These other two are on what rivers?—A. One on the Skeena and one on the Naas River.

Q. When did you form this syndicate?—A. I don't think it is a syndicate.

Q. When did you form this company?—A. Well, it is pretty hard now to say—we started in fifteen years ago.

Q. Then these canneries have been working together for fifteen years?—A. No; about a year ago.

Q. Is the capital wholly amongst the seven canneries, or is there outside capital connected with it?—A. Oh, no; there is no other capital connected with it except the seven canneries joined together.

Q. No English capital or other outside capital?—A. No; we simply united together for—well, protection.

Q. Have you found it more profitable?—A. No; we haven't made a cent (laughter) and we don't expect to make a cent next year—I am telling you facts.

Q. Have you sold all the pack of '91 yet?—A. No; not yet.

Q. Then you don't know if you have made a cent?—A. No; we don't expect to—we have not sold all.

Q. If there is to be an established number of licenses given to cannerymen, what would you consider a fair and just maximum number?—A. We have already stated that twenty-five would be a fair limit. You see, as it was before we had forty—with twenty-five we leave a fair margin for outsiders that we would have to take in.

Q. Then you would think twenty-five satisfactory if a limit is to be made?—A. Yes.

Q. And you think that less than twenty-five would not be satisfactory?—A. No, it would not—perhaps, Mr. Wilmot, you have not followed up matters on the Columbia River—on account of the fishermen having control of them there they had to close down half the canneries there.

Q. But you must be aware the labour organizations now are a ruling power in the world?—A. Well, that is a matter for the Dominion Government.

Q. Well, but that is the very reason why this Commission is here, and the questions put to you here are for no other reason than to gain information for the guidance of the Government?—A. Oh well, that is all right, Mr. Wilmot, but there has been so many

restrictions and taxes put on us that I am really astonished they have the cheek to ask for capital to come forward to develop the deep-sea fisheries—you cannot get a man in Victoria to spend a ten-cent piece on it.

Q. Then you think it an advantage to advocate the canning industry?—A. Certainly.

Q. And it is not advantageous to bring in desirable immigrants to work them?—

A. Well, do you mean in numbers?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I mean that the class of men who will come and help themselves and you too?—A. Oh well, there are no idle men here in the fishing season.

Q. Well about giving licenses to Indians—do you think they should have licenses?—A. Well, I don't think it would be of much use to them.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I think Mr. Wilmot, licensed Indians should have their own boat and net.

Mr. WILMOT.—But if they haven't they will go to the cannerymen and get a boat and net.

Mr. LAIDLAW.—Well, I will tell you I had to pay \$50 for a boat last year, yet the Government gave one to a saloon-keeper!

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Now, you think the hatchery is beneficial?—A. Certainly. I think they should build more—the idea of raising a special tax here and taking the money back east!

Mr. WILMOT.—Let me dispossess your mind of that—there is no special tax here—they pay license fees for fishing in all parts of Canada.—A. But the Government draws from here some \$10,000 away from us.

Q. If you found that in other provinces it was more than that what would you say?—A. Then I want the money spent here—I don't want it taken back east.

Q. And you don't want any money from there?—A. No, not a cent.

Q. I am afraid you would not get on very well then. Now take the other provinces—this is the departmental report for 1890—now on page 13, the revenue derived from the fisheries of the various provinces is given—Ontario, \$23,666.96, and on page 10 you will find the expenditure also given by provinces, and you will find that in Ontario only \$14,539.87 of that \$23,666 was expended in the protection of the fisheries of the province.—A. Now, how much does it cost to run the fisheries?

Mr. WILMOT.—That is not the question—I want to show you that there is no special tax.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. And you are under a mistaken idea, Mr. Laidlaw, when you say that you are paying a special tax and that this should go to the province of British Columbia specially. I pay taxes and you pay taxes and all this goes into the general fund for the whole country.—A. But the Government said they required a special tax.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. How long is it since you have been paying special fees?—A. I cannot tell you from memory.

Q. Then you think hatcheries are good things?—A. Yes, and we want more of them; if they put up more hatcheries, I am perfectly willing to pay my share.

Q. No, if you got more hatcheries you would not pay for it. It would come from the general fund of the whole country without any more additional taxes being levied—your idea is not the right one. Now, do you think hatcheries should be built down at the foot of the rivers or at the head of them?—A. Well, I would leave that to the department—at present the spawn is gathered at Harrison River and taken down here to the hatchery—why not have a hatchery up there? I think both spring salmon and sockeye should be cultivated, and I have not the slightest doubt in the world that the spring salmon will become sufficiently plenty to be used by cannerymen.

Q. But what about the white spring salmon?—A. Well, that is a thing I can't tell.

Q. But we cannot discern in taking eggs from them?—A. Well, an expert can nearly tell in taking the white salmon or the red one.

Q. You think the present close time is correct?—A. Yes; I don't think it could be improved—in fact, it would be injured, if changed any, and be very detrimental to all.

Q. Should license fees be all alike?—A. On this river? Oh, as far as this river is concerned, all licenses should be alike; but up north they have not the benefit of the hatchery or anything of that kind, and I don't think they should pay the same as we down here.

Q. Then, you think the benefit of the hatchery worth the difference?—A. Yes; we never had such a good poor year as this last one, and I cannot but give some benefit to the hatchery. I am perfectly willing to pay my share, if another hatchery is to be built here. But on the Skeena I don't know it would be necessary, as we get plenty of what we want.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Is there a cannery's association in existence at the present time?—A. Certainly.

Q. Well, it has been said, you know, that it is not.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Is what you mean by association this advisory board—as you say in your written evidence submitted, it was strongly recommended by a committee of the Cannery Association, 4th February, 1891.—A. Yes, and that recommendation was made to Ottawa before—I thought you had a copy of it. I will send one down here for you. I would only add—build more hatcheries.

Q. But if you think it is an extra tax paid here, we would have to put another tax upon you to build it?—A. Well, I would be quite willing to pay my share. There is only one thing else I would like to say—that Mr. Armstrong said that a man could with \$5,000 build a cannery and make \$25,000 a year. I am astonished that Mr. Armstrong would say that in evidence, because no one but a fool could give such evidence. I am perfectly willing to run every cannery that we have got, if they give me \$25,000. I will run them all for twenty years. You see it costs us \$5,000 for solder. Another thing is, one man said in evidence here that ten licenses were worth \$10,000. Why in the world won't he come to me, or why did he not come last year? He would be as rich as possible—why, we would give him the canneries to run them.

Q. One question more—what is the value of fish?—A. Well, that I cannot tell you.

Q. But you bought a lot of fish, did you not?—A. I had three men—contractors. I had to pay 20 cents for them. I had ten more on contract. Them I paid 15 cents, and then I got all the boats I could possibly get.

Q. You put it down, then, as very ludicrous that ten licenses were worth \$10,000. Now, many fishermen say they have caught 6,000 fish, and at 20 cents apiece these would be what?—A. \$1,200, I suppose.

Q. Then, ten licenses would be more than \$10,000. I think, judging from what you have said here, that a license is worth \$1,000 to a man. You packers have made \$20,000 in a year?—A. Well, I am under oath, and I have stated that I didn't make a cent.

(After a few desultory remarks which were not relevant.)

Q. There is nothing more then that you wish to say?—A. No; nothing more, I think.

The Chairman declared the Commission adjourned at 5.15 p.m. to meet at 10 a.m. on the 27th February, 1892.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., 27th February, 1892.

Morning Session.

The Commission assembled in the Court House at 10 a.m. and was called to order at 10.20.

Present:—S. Wilmot, Esq., in the Chair; Mr. Sheriff Armstrong, Secretary Winter.

CAPTAIN G. N. COOPER, a native of England, 14 years in British Columbia, master mariner, and resident of New Westminster, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Now, sir, what do you wish to present to this Commission?—I have first of all some complaints to make.

A. Against whom?—A. Against the Dominion Government and its agent. I have been a fisherman since my boyhood up and I have been engaged at the fisheries in different capacities ever since in this country—also in the United States and in England as a boy.

Q. So you are thoroughly conversant and able to give a pretty good view on all fishery questions?—A. Yes; last year I equipped the steamer "Dreadnought."

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Just give us what you want about fishing?—A. Well, I built and equipped the steamer on purpose to engage in the fisheries and to put her in service as a fishing steamer. I applied for license.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. For fishing where?—A. All over the coast—I applied for license to fish all rivers.

Q. Any especially?—A. None especially—my object in building the steamer was to catch fish and bring them to wherever I had a chance best to dispose of them.

Q. That would take in Fraser River, Naas, and other rivers?—A. Yes; I applied for license to Mr. Mowat to fish on the Fraser River and was refused. The only reason Mr. Mowat gave was that I was well enough off now and had a steamer and should not have a license. I told him then that perhaps if I had spent all my money for whiskey I would get a license. I had a license the year before, but he said as I had not fished for a year I had lost my chance for getting one. I also asked him if it was possible for me to obtain permission from the Dominion Government to select a stream on the coast where fishing operations were not carried on, to stock it, and to get the river for 5 or 10 years myself. He said I could not do that.

Q. You made the proposition that you would stock it yourself?—A. Yes; and he said he could do nothing in the matter. I told him I thought it was pretty hard after spending all my life in the fisheries, and being a British subject, and had spent my money in fitting out a steamer to engage in the fisheries—deep-sea as well as in rivers—and then those who were spending their money in whiskey could get licenses.

Q. How long did you fish under license?—A. One year—in 1884—excepting, of course, on the other side. I fished on the Columbia River over a license.

Q. A license then had to be obtained there?—A. Yes; for \$5.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. And were you a British subject there, and a license granted to you?—A. Yes, sir; it was customary at that time when all could get licenses.

Q. And from the Federal Government or the State Government?—A. That I cannot say. Well, I think it must have been from the Federal Government, because the Columbia River flows between the two States.

By Mr. Wilnot:

Q. And you are sure it gave you permission to fish on the Columbia River in the two States?—A. Yes.

Q. What was this license for?—A. For salmon—there is no other fishery there.

Q. And then you came here?—A. Yes; that was in '78, I have remained here ever since.

Q. What is the capacity of your steamer?—A. Well, unfortunately I had to sell her.

Q. Would it be out of the way for you to state the value of the steamer?—A. \$5,000.

Q. Then you have been fishing on the Fraser and elsewhere since—in what way?—A. I have only lately sold the steamer. I have not been fishing since.

Q. When did you sell her?—A. About six months ago. I had to go towing, as I could not get a license; I had to go towing instead.

Q. Since you could not get licenses on the river, have you fished?—A. Yes; I have been foreman of fishing camps for canneries; besides that I have had boats and nets at different times belonging to the canneries.

Q. What do you mean by camps?—A. The canneries don't fish all their boats at one place—they establish camps along the river. The fishermen catch the fish in the river and carry them to the camps, where they are put in scows. Each cannery has from two to three or four camps.

Q. What company were you foreman for?—A. I have been foreman for four or five companies.

Q. Then you are thoroughly conversant with the system carried on?—A. Oh, yes.

Q. Well, will you just relate—when boats come with fish to the scow, what would be a fair average number of the fish?—A. In a good season 300 to 600 in a day.

Q. And how many days is the usual period during sockeye season?—A. Well, that would last from two to three and it has lasted as long as four weeks. I don't mean continuous fishing—sometimes they run better than others.

Q. But the usual run is how long?—A. From two to four weeks. When the run is light, they are in much smaller numbers.

Q. Do you count the fish as they are brought in?—A. Yes; the foreman counts the fish. It is usually entered in books, and the fishermen, if they have a book, would do so, too.

Q. Would this book belong to the foreman?—A. Oh no; to the cannery. There is also a printed form with the numbers of the boats, and the fish brought in are entered opposite each number.

Q. Fish caught by No. 18 would be entered opposite No. 18?—A. Yes.

Q. What is the largest number you have known to be brought in?—Oh, a boatful. 700 to 800.

Q. And do you total up the total at the end of the season?—A. Oh, no, the canneries would do that.

Q. And what is the average catch in a season?—A. In a good season 8,000 to 12,000 fish in a boat.

Q. And are any of these injured that are brought in?—A. Oh no; practically not.

Q. And how long will the boat remain there?—A. As a general rule men come in and discharge the fish from the scow after coming in.

Q. How many fish would a scow hold?—A. A small one would hold 3,000.

Q. And a large one?—A. Well, some used to hold 10,000; some were larger than necessary; the larger ones would hold about 6,000 or 7,000.

Q. Do these scows generally leave the camps with fish all in prime condition?—A. Generally; almost without exception.

Q. Have you known any instances when they were not?—A. I have known one or two instances; I have known half a scow load thrown away from it being injured from the weather when hot.

Q. Have you any term "short," or otherwise, to indicate these fish?—A. No; there is no special name.

Q. When scows arrive at the canneries—you know of the process?—A. Yes, I am thoroughly conversant with the whole process.

Q. What plan—are they then pitched up on the wharf?—A. They are generally put up in boxes or cranes and often with an iron-pointed fork; the point is put in the head and the fish are thrown up. They are then cleaned at once. The wharves are always covered and the cleaners are right at the edge of the wharf, and they clean them right there.

Q. What is the process of cleaning?—A. They cut off the heads, fins and tails; these are first cut off, and then the fish is cut in pieces to fit the cans.

Q. And the offal is taken out too?—A. Yes, I consider that all offal.

Q. And then?—A. It is cut in suitable sizes to fit the cans.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. How many pieces will a fish make?—A. Four or five.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, now, take the sockeye—what is the average weight?—A. They usually go from 10 to a case when fish run large and when smaller 11 to 12; the average weight of the fish would be a trifle over six pounds.

Q. In both short and long seasons?—A. Yes; that is a general average from one season to another.

Q. And would fish not lose during a heavy run?—A. I never noticed any difference.

Q. One fish will then make from 4 to 5 cans, you say?—A. Yes.

Q. Then the next process is, I suppose, put through until they get in the boxes?—A. Yes.

Q. Well, take the average of establishments—how many hands are here employed altogether, including Indians, Chinamen and foremen, not boatmen?—A. Well, from 300 to 400; that would include boatmen and all persons employed about the cannery.

Q. How many persons would be employed in the cannery alone?—A. Probably from 100 to 200 inside.

Q. You are taking a fair average?—A. Yes; I think it would be nearer 100—say 120 or 150—it depends on the season and run of fish they get and the men they get to work. Of course that applies to a big season; in a small season they will not require as many.

Q. How many white men would there be inside?—A. 5 to 7 or 8; the rest would be all Chinamen and Indians.

Q. Have you any idea of the usual price paid per diem to Chinamen and Indians?—A. It is done generally by contract—if Chinamen are on day work they get \$1 to \$1.25 a day—I think that is all they get under the Chinese contractor.

Q. During your time and to your knowledge, a contractor will take in, clean, and pack the fish at so much per case?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you any idea of how much per case?—A. No, I have no idea.

Q. And if he hires Indians or Chinamen by day work—how much?—A. I have an idea, as I told you before, \$1 to \$1.25.

Q. And you have knowledge that some fish would be spoiled on top of the scow, and thrown off into the water?—A. Well, that is unusual—I have not seen it—I have seen a few fish thrown off that were exposed to the sun.

Q. A few were thrown off but that is exceptional?—A. Exceptional.

Q. And if large numbers are brought to the cannery and they cannot get through, would they be canned next day?—A. Well, they generally can get them in cans next day or if they have too many fish they can stop their boats and not get any more.

Q. What is a fair average of the number of cases turned out of a cannery—15,000?

—A. Yes, I think that would be the least—that is when the factory is working at full capacity.

Q. I mean all the year through?—A. Oh, yes; that would be a high average I think.

Q. How many boats would it take to fairly supply a cannery turning out that number?—A. In a good season twenty boats.

By Mr. Wilnot:

Q. Some seasons there would be a great many more cases turned out?—A. Oh, yes; in a big run it would be the full capacity of the cannery whatever that might be—some might go as high as 30,000 cases.

Q. And in a low season that might be reduced?—A. Yes, to 5,000 or 6,000.—I think there is only one cannery that could turn out the highest number. I don't know exactly what his capacity is, but I think quite as high as that in a good run.

Q. I understand last year he turned out 25,000 cases—was that a good year?—A. I was away towing on the coast and so am not well posted as to what last year was.

Q. With regard to the offal business—the fish you say are cleaned, heads and tails, and entrails taken out, and then it falls into the water?—A. Yes.

Q. What do you think—is it injurious to water, fish, or anything at all?—A. It is not injurious to the river at all unless through carelessness it is allowed to remain on the banks of the river.

Q. How would it go on the banks of the river?—A. As a general rule the canneries are near the bank—40 or 50 feet from the bank—there is so much offal thrown into the river, some must get on the bank when it is not all eaten up. If the offal were put in deep water I don't think we would hear anything of the offal. I have seen the offal eaten so fast we could not find a trace of it at all. I think though the Chinese should be prevented from catching these small fish—suckers we generally call them, though there are several kinds—The Chinese frequently dip up buckets full while they are eating the offal—I think they should be stopped from doing this.

Q. But would not that be preventing men from catching food—just like they say canneries should be prevented from catching so many salmon?—A. Well, but let them eat salmon—it would be much better.

Q. Have you seen offal lodge along the banks and sloughs?—A. Not as much as dead fish—I have seen thousands of dog-salmon and humpbacks left on the banks by the Indians and they have been much worse than all the offal put together.

Q. Then you think offal not injurious either to the river or to the people who drink the water?—A. No, for this reason—there is nothing but a few heads that ever decompose in the river, and the quantity is so small that it cannot hurt this river. All the heads put together from New Westminster to the mouth would not be as much as I have seen in one hour of dead fish on the Harrison River. I do not think as much injury can be made from this offal as from the dead fish on the Harrison River.

Q. Have you seen many dead fish coming down the river?—A. Yes, I have seen millions strewn on the water from Harrison to the mouth of the river—floating on the water. I would suggest that canneries be compelled to discharge all offal into deep water and not let it remain around the shores—it is very offensive to the smell.

Q. Not to the health?—A. No, I don't think to the health.

Q. But if you think the smell from dead fish would be so great, would not offal be as bad?—A. Well, I think the offal should be put into deep water.

Q. What is your idea of it being converted into oil or fertilizer?—A. I think it a good idea if it would pay—there were two factories over at Astoria and they were run successfully.

Q. Is it not possible for the same to be done here?—A. I think, if in the hands of the right parties, it would pay.

Q. Would it be more expensive for canneries to put the offal in the river or to put it in the factory?—A. Well, on the Columbia river the oil factories sent for the offal.

Q. Then it would be more expensive to put offal in the deep channel of the river?—A. Well, yes it would be well to have arrangement made—over on the other side they have a frame work made to catch all the offal and it runs from that into scows, and it was taken away by the oil men.

Q. Could not that be done here?—A. Well, it could be on the lower part of the river, but I don't think it could be on the upper portions.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. But have not cannerymen all steamers of their own?—A. Oh yes, but they have no time to look after that.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. What number of factories would be sufficient to utilize the offal here?—A. One would be sufficient.

Q. If the offal was thrown into scows from the canneries would it not pay?—A. I doubt if an oil factory could keep a steamer—if they got the offal for nothing they could make something out of it.

Q. Would it not be better for cannerymen to pay the cost of this among themselves, instead of being under the penalties of the law as at present?—A. Yes, I suppose so—I think that would be far the cheapest way. I have heard of putting offal in the ground but it could be done cheaper, because after you have the offal there you would have to turn up a hole to put it in.

Q. And you think the only feasible way would be by making some use of it as fertilizer or oil?—A. Well, I don't know as a fertilizer would be needed here; it is a new country.

Q. Well, but neither do you consume the fish here, do you?—A. Well, I worked once in a fertilizer factory myself, and it don't pay.

Q. But they made oil, as well, did they not?—A. Yes, but what would they do with the fertilizer?

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. In Astoria what do they do?—A. Oh, they threw the fertilizer away—they did not use it.

MR. ARMSTRONG.—That was almost as bad as the offal.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. What is this fertilizer like—is it a powder?—A. Well, yes—like stuff you sweep up from the house; it is very light stuff.

Q. Then you think, after all, a factory for utilizing the offal might easily be carried out here, and that one factory would accommodate the whole of the canneries, and that oil factories on the Columbia River were a success?—A. They were a success. I know that one of the partners told me that he clubbed \$125 a month. He had a quarter interest, and he had made that besides his wages. He told me that himself.

Q. What do you think of the close season?—A. I think the Sunday close season is all right now; that is the only feasible close season I know of. As to the other, there is one month now in which there is no fishing done at all.

Q. Well, I think that is an understood thing among the canneries. Is it a fact that spring salmon are more white than red?—A. Yes, they are more white than red—fully 75 per cent of them are white. There are four or five varieties here of quinnat, but all are called spring salmon—any fishermen can see the difference, though we have no name for them.

Q. Are they like Columbia River salmon?—A. No, none are like Columbia salmon.

Q. What is the distinctive difference?—A. Well, you can only see the difference—they are much larger over there than here.

Q. And are there any white salmon in the Columbia River?—A. No, all are red—the question of white salmon was never raised.

Q. And here 75 per cent are white, taking the season through?—A. Yes.

Q. Which are more merchantable?—A. Oh, the white are worthless.

Q. What are done with them?—A. Oh, Indians take all they want, and the rest are thrown away.

Q. And the probable weight of these?—A. About twelve pounds.

Q. Why do you say "different species" here?—A. You can see the difference—in the larger ones the distances between the extreme of the back and the belly are greater than others.

Q. The early runs of them here in April and May, when they come in here first, as regards flavour of flesh, are they equal to Columbia River salmon?—A. Oh, yes; equally as good. In spring time they can be eaten, but not in summer. I have been made sick myself; but the red ones are always good.

Q. It is remarkable. We have been asked by many to breed spring salmon, but you say they are not fit to eat?—A. Except in the spring; but then there are no other fish in the market.

Q. And if other fish were in the market they could not take at all?—A. Oh, no.

Q. What run of fish comes after the sockeyes?—A. The cohoes, but they are worthless.

At this point of the examination, Capt. Cooper stated that his business engagements would prevent him from continuing his evidence at present and requested that he might be allowed to continue his evidence at 3 p.m. Both Commissioners assenting, the witness left the stand.

Mr. Commissioner Higgins arrived and took his seat as one of the Commission, at 11.30 a.m.

THOMAS CUMMINGHAM, a native of Ireland, living in British Columbia since 1859, a resident of New Westminster and describing himself as a fruit-grower, stock-breeder and farmer, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Do you wish to make any statement?—A. I feel deeply interested in this question of disposing of the offal, and the welfare of the fisheries generally. I differ from all the evidence I have heard as to its value as a fertilizer—I think it very valuable.

Q. For the purpose of producing cereals or fruit?—A. Fruit especially and in the event of our going into beet-root growing.

Q. Your knowledge—is it from experiment or on good authority?—A. Oh, I have the best of authority.

Q. What effect has it from a sanitary stand-point?—A. I should think it very good.

Q. From what cause—its putridity or offensiveness of smell—or does it create disease?—A. I think it apt to create disease.

MR. HIGGINS.—Not what you have heard, Mr. Cunningham, we don't want hear-say evidence.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What of your knowledge, do you think it creates disease?—A. Well, I think it would taint the water and I know if it lodges upon the beach or shores it becomes offensive and deleterious to health.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. That is your opinion—have you any practical knowledge?—A. Well, that is my opinion—I know it has a bad effect upon dairy stock if they drink the water. I was through Chilliwack and through Sumas last fall and saw hundreds of thousands of dead fish there.

Q. And is there no way of stopping fish from dispersing themselves dead in the river?—A. There is a way of catching them and grinding them as a fertilizer.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What is the effect on dairy stock?—A. Well, the cows drink the water and it taints the butter.

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Q. Have you any knowledge of its effects on the milk?—A. I have heard farmers say so.

Q. How does it effect hogs—does it show the effects in the pork?—A. Yes; it gets unmarketable.

Q. Then as a fertilizer and oil—you think the fertilizer would be valuable for agricultural purposes?—A. Certainly; there is fish guano made in Norway sells in London for £6 to £10 sterling a ton.

Q. Have you had any trial of its effects as a fertilizer here?—A. I have seen it tried in the raw state.

Q. Have you used any made in the factory here?—A. No; I have not. There is an unfortunate opinion prevailing that our lands in this district are sufficiently rich as to not need a fertilizer—it arose because this neighbourhood is very rich—but in other places it is not so there—Mr. Higgins will know in Vancouver Island the trees are withering for want of a fertilizer. I think the fertilizer would be useful for both agricultural and horticultural purposes, and when we get the knowledge how to make it properly we will ship it away to England and other places—but we don't need to ship it—we need it here. I expect in a few years from now I will be able to use 50 tons of fish guano a year, and if we go into the raising of beet-root we will want every pound we can get.

Q. If it were made, you would consume a lot of it and you think others would do the same?—A. Yes, I would and I think others would. I think too that steps should be taken immediately to utilize the humpback salmon—they are poisoning the small rivers and streams in this country and it is a very small matter if bins were made. A ton of green fish will make 400 pounds of dry fertilizer.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Suppose this offal, Mr. Cunningham, were towed out into deep current of the river would it taint the water as now?—A. Oh, no; I think it would not, but I think it would be a gross waste of very valuable material.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, then, why don't you go into this profitable business?—A. Well, that is not my business—I am a consumer.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, but we will admit there is no way of utilizing that offal?—A. But, I don't think so.

Mr. HIGGINS.—But suppose there is no way and there is no factory—what would you do with it?—A. I think I would tow it out to deep water—that would be better than leaving it around the canneries.

Mr. HIGGINS.—About these hundreds and hundreds of salmon you see in Chilliwack—they would taint the water too, would they not?—A. Yes.

Q. And for years back this has been done?—A. Yes.

Q. And if there had been no natural law to thin them out they would have choked up the river long ago with their numbers would they not?—A. Well, I have no doubt that much of the land in this district has been enriched by dead salmon.

By Mr. Higgins:

Do you think that salmon die after spawning?—A. Well, a great many.

Q. Do you think, with the late Mr. Mowat, that 25 per cent get back to sea?—A. Well, I don't know.

Q. What do you know of this sickness said to be derived from offal?—A. I know nothing except what I have heard from Delta and other places.

Q. Well, but that might have come from other causes?—A. Yes, it might.

Q. Have you any practical suggestion to make for disposing of this offal?—A. I don't know.

Q. Has anything been tried?—A. I think there is an oil factory down the river.

Q. Using offal?—A. Yes.

Q. You say dead fish at Chilliwack have an effect on the milk?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you throw away the milk?—A. Oh, no; I do know this, that where hogs pasture and eat these fish we keep them for another year to get rid of this fishy taste.

Q. And if they ate many dead fish, you would have "fishy" pork?—A. Yes, I suppose you would.

Mr. WILMOT.—Have you seen this article in the "Colonist," Mr. Higgins, about the analysis of samples of offal?—A. Mr. Higgins.—Oh, yes; I have seen that.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM.—If you wish to see authorities as to value of fertilizers I have them here.—A. Mr. Higgins.—Oh, no; never mind—we know it is a good thing, but the question is simply how to do it with success.

Mr. WILMOT.—Q. Have you anything to make mention of, with regard to the limitation of nets?—A. Licenses?

Mr. WILMOT.—Q. Yes.—A. I think it would be unfair if you place cannerymen at the mercy of the fishermen. I saw the effects of that on the Columbia River. I had a friend who dropped \$175,000 just through such a thing.

Mr. WILMOT.—Q. Have fishermen control of the Columbia?—A. They had then—the fishermen forced the price of fish up to 60 and 65 cents.

Mr. HIGGINS.—75 one year—I had a friend who lost money too.

Mr. WILMOT.—Q. Would it be equitable if each fisherman, a *bona fide* British subject, should be entitled to one license?—A. It depends on the number applying.

Q. Would you limit the number?—A. Yes.

Q. What number should that limit be?—A. I think 500 about right.

Q. The fishermen say they cannot get licenses to fish and consequently are labouring under difficulties—now with 500 that is the case. You are not prepared to say then, whether they should—all practical *bona fide* British subjects—be given a license or not?—A. Well, no; I think the number should be limited to a certain number—they should not be transferable by any means.

Mr. WILMOT.—Q. What are your views on the Sunday close season? Should Sunday be kept as a close season?—A. Yes, I believe in the observation of the Sabbath—I think when we try to amend the Divine Law we get into difficulties.

Q. You mean the whole of Sunday?—A. Yes, I mean the whole of it—I don't see any reason why a man should fish on Sunday night when other men don't do other work on that day.

Q. What are the effects of the hatchery on the river?—A. Decidedly beneficial I think.

Q. With regard to your views on licenses—you appear to be an intelligent man—do you favour any discrimination of fees in obtaining licenses—should the fee be alike, to fishermen and canners?—A. I think there should be uniformity.

Q. With regard to this river and all other rivers in the Province?—A. Well, I think in order to permit the northern rivers to compete with Alaska a discrimination should be made in their favour. The northern coast is dangerous to navigation and the reverses heavier.

Q. Have you any knowledge of the quantities of fish taken by canneries and their size?—A. Not very much.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Q. What is your opinion as regards the increase or decrease of fish in the river? Do you think the river over-fished?—A. I think it has been, but the hatcheries I think have supplied the difference.

Q. Then you think with a hatchery, intelligently carried out, there is no danger of decrease of the fish?—A. No, I think not.

Mr. WILMOT.—Q. And if the hatchery produces so many more fish the hatchery is making more offal. (Laughter.)—A. Well, we will get more fertilizers. I do hope the Government can do something to utilize these humpbacks—anything that can be done to utilize these fish and make them into fertilizers would be a good thing.

Q. But should not this offal be utilized first?—A. Well, I don't know—I think one just as bad as another. If any gentlemen will pay a visit to Chilliwack, they will see for themselves.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Mr. Chairman, has any medical evidence been taken as to the effects of this offal?

Mr. WILMOT.—Yes; we have had medical evidence.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I think subpoenas should be at once issued to all medical men within reach and get their opinions on this matter—also the mortuary statistics and record of deaths, &c.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes ; I think the city health officers should be summoned, too. You cannot summon a man and get him here this afternoon—you cannot expect a man to be here before Monday.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I cannot wait here for all time—I think you should get these men. We have lots of evidence waiting in Victoria and I must go back Monday.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, if you will just give the names of persons you want, we will try and get them.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, Mr. Armstrong knows them—he knows all the doctors in town.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Then you think we should prove it is not healthy.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Whether it is unhealthy.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—But it is not health alone—it is also the destruction of a lot of good material, that otherwise could be made use of.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, summonses have to be signed by all three Commissioners, but we have not used any owing to your (to Mr. Higgins) absence, but as the Board is now full, and it is desirable to issue summonses we might send Mr. McNab down to ask any one you would like to be here.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I think Dr. Wilson should be summoned.

Mr. WILMOT.—Do you think that it is necessary to issue a subpoena to Dr. Wilson?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I do.

Mr. HAGGART.—I do.

A summons was thereupon issued to Dr. Wilson to appear before the Commission at 10 a.m. on the 29th February at New Westminster; and at the request of Mr. Higgins, letters were written requesting the attendance of Drs. De Wolfe Smith, Fagan and McLean before the Commission at 2 p.m. this day.

The Commission adjourned at 12.30 p.m.

NEW WESTMINSTER, 27th February, 1892.

Afternoon Session.

The Commission re-assembled at the Court House at 2 p.m. Full Board present. CAPTAIN COOPER, being present, was permitted to resume his evidence.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Then you gave your opinion in regard to offal being non-injurious, and that it might be made use of beneficially by making it into oil and fertilizer?—A. To make oil. I don't see my way clear to make fertilizer.

Q. Have you any knowledge of the injury of saw-dust?—A. No direct knowledge, but I think it would be injurious for this reason—I have often noticed fish nibbling at any little thing in the river—I don't think that was with salmon—the saw-dust in going into a fish's gills would lodge in passing out. A salmon is a very delicate fish and I have known salmon to die after slight injury.

Q. You have seen saw-dust in their gills?—A. I have not seen it, but I think if it lodged it would injure fish.

Mr. WILMOT.—I may say that it is a fallacy which has much predominated in the eastern provinces that saw-dust killed fish by getting in their gills ; but we never find saw-dust in the gills of living fish, but when fish are dead, saw-dust may get in their gills, but never in the gills of living fish. The saw-dust is injurious by stopping vegetable growth in the beds of rivers, &c., and that is where the injury comes in, and though salmon may go through a lot of saw-dust, they would never get it in their gills.

Mr. HIGGINS.—But this witness thinks saw-dust does injury to fish—he thinks it gets in their gills.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What do you think of the limitation of nets?—A. I think the present size of net sufficient.

Q. But the number of licenses given to fishermen and cannery?—A. I think myself that the licenses can be readjusted—I think it is not fair and equal as it stands at present—the cannery have almost enough licenses to get along with Indian labour alone, and an independent fisherman cannot get the chance of making anything at all, except in a poor season, when the independent fisherman is much in demand. I think the cannery might be allowed one-half the number they require. The condition of things is quite different here to what prevails on the Columbia River. There they are white fishermen, but here it is not the same. I think if a limit is placed on the river, the cannery should be given about one-half and the independent fishermen the other half—I think that is but fair.

Mr. WILMOT.—But would you give one license only?—A. One license—not more.

Q. What number would you give to cannery, then, on the supposition that there was no limit?—A. Oh, as many as they like.

Q. If one license were given to each *bona fide* fisherman, there should be also a limit, should there not, to the licenses given to cannery?—A. If licenses are unlimited to fishermen, they should also be unlimited to cannery.

Q. Then, would it not have the same effect then as that which you have referred to, viz. : that one would master the other, if unlimited to cannery? The fishermen only get one—would not the fishermen be kept out of service?—A. Well, I don't look at it in that light; my object is to say if we give licenses in unlimited numbers to fishermen, we must also do the same to cannery.

Q. Then, unlimited to cannery?—A. I would say, if cannery are limited, also limit the number of licenses issued on the river, as well—for instance, if 600 are enough for the river, give cannery one-half and fishermen the other half—if the department considers 600 too small, give both parties the same, no matter what number.

Q. But if 600 was the limit and 300 the number given to the cannery, there might be enough cannery put up to make it almost useless to continue work?—A. Well, that is a matter which the cannery would arrange among themselves, for no business man would go into a business unless he thought he would get a license.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Pardon me, Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that Captain Cooper might give way for Mr. McNeely, a gentleman who has come here to give evidence and has but a short time at his disposal—Capt. Cooper can come again on the stand, if he will be good enough to give way for the present.—A. Oh, certainly,

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well, then Capt. Cooper we will conclude with you afterwards.

THOMAS MCNEELY, a resident of Ladner's Landing, and in British Columbia for twenty-nine or thirty years, describing himself as a merchant, was then duly sworn.

Mr. MCNEELY.—What I came here for is to correct a statement made in the paper—I will show it to you if you wish to see it.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. A statement made by yourself sir?—A. No, by another party. The witness here read an extract from the report of the proceedings of the Fisheries Commission in the *News-Advertiser*, of 27th February, 1892, re evidence given by Mr. W. Arthur on the previous day. (Continuing) I wish to state that I did not buy this oil. I tried this oil in 1890—I used a barrel or so—last year I didn't use any of any account. It is not good as a lubricator and I have no use for it.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. You didn't buy any of it in 1891?—A. I did not.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Did you sell any of it?—A. No, I did not. I just wanted to correct that statement—that is my reason for coming here.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Perhaps Mr. McNeely can give some views about the health of the community down the river?—A. There were some deaths from typhoid fever down there last summer during the fishing season.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Have you formed any views of the probable reasons for this sickness?—A. I have not.

Q. Have you ever drank the water?—A. No.

Q. Why don't you drink it?—A. I don't like drinking water at all.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Does Mr. Ladner drink much of it? (Laughter.)—A. I don't know.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What is the impression of the injury derived from offal there?—A. Well, I could hardly tell that.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Have you ever known of any case of illness traced to drinking Fraser River water?—A. I don't know.

Q. Did you ever live in a large city?—A. No.

Q. Any town where large streams ran by?—A. No.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Do you think oil from offal is as good as dog-fish oil?—A. Not for lubricating purposes.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Do you know of anything as to its use as a fertilizer?—A. I believe it is considered good as a fertilizer.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. For general purposes?—A. Well, I think more for vegetables.

Q. Is there a ready sale for fertilizer?—A. Well it has never been introduced enough—I could not tell.

Q. But it has been used?—Yes, small quantities of it, but as to whether it would pay, I don't think any one has experience enough to tell.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. There are quite a number of Chinamen employed during the canning season about Ladner's Landing?—A. Quite a number.

Q. Could their labour be dispensed with?—A. I don't know how.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Could they not get white men?—A. I don't think they could.

Q. Nor Indians?—A. I don't think they could.

Q. And they consider Chinese labour most effective?—A. I think so.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Do you think every *bona fide* fisherman and British subject should get a license to fish?—A. Well, I could not say—I never paid any heed to it.

Q. But should resident fishermen, in your opinion, be placed in such a position so they could get a license?—A. I think so.

Q. If that were generally known, would it add to immigrants coming to the country?—A. Well, I don't know—there might be fishermen enough in the country to take all the licenses they could use.

Q. Any inducement would be good that would induce immigrants to come and take the place of Chinamen, would it not?—A. Well, yes, if they could give labour when they got here.

Q. But would it be an inducement, if an immigrant knew he could get a license if he wanted one?—A. Yes, I think so.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well, that will do, sir; unless, gentlemen, you have something further to ask the witness.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—No, nothing further.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Oh, no; that will do.

CAPT. COOPER was recalled and continued his evidence.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. We were last speaking something about licenses, I think?—A. I stated that I had made application for a license—one license to fish salmon—that is, one on any river on which I wished to go—I wanted one here, and if I went to the Skeena or Naas, I wanted one for each river, and in each case I was refused.

Q. But if you got a license for the waters of British Columbia, would not that cover all?—A. Yes, if there were licenses of that description; but I was willing to pay for a license on each river.

Q. And you could get neither?—A. I could get none. The only reason that was given me was that I was well enough off and had a steamer and had no need to do fishing. I told Mr. Mowat that was the very reason I built the boat, but I had to go towing, and afterwards sold the boat.

Q. You attribute it to this cause that you could not get a license to fish?—A. Yes.

Q. You were away for a season and then could not get licenses to fish?—A. Yes, you see some seasons are poorer than others, and then I went steam-boating.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Were you willing to go in the deep-sea fisheries, too?—A. Yes, I was ready for all kinds.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. But there was nothing to prevent you going out in the deep sea?—A. Yes, but that is only in winter; I wanted to fish in the rivers. The second year I had to go towing and eke out the expenses in that way, instead of fishing, as I wanted to. I considered that it would not justify me in equipping a boat for deep-sea fisheries, unless I could fish anywhere I chose.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Your view of the deep-sea fisheries is within three miles of the coast?—A. Yes, certainly, and I also asked Mr. Mowat if he would communicate with the department and let me stock a river and then let me have it for five or ten years; but he would not do it for me.

Q. And did it never go any further?—A. Well, that is what I want to know—if he did not I want to make that application now. My reason for wanting 5 years is that the time for the sockeye returning to spawn is from 3 to 4 years, so if I placed a limit of 10 years I would only then have 6 years to fish.

Q. You spoke of being on the Columbia—are there fish hatcheries there?—A. I have read that there are—there were not when I was there.

Q. And you draw the conclusion that by starting a hatchery?—A. I didn't intend starting a hatchery but wished to stock it after a plan of my own.

Q. Will you not tell us this and give us information?—A. Well, that is a secret—I would rather not tell that. I wished only to have the privilege of controlling the fish I had hatched out myself. I wanted to stock the stream for myself and then after my time it would belong to the Government.

Q. Then you intended hatching fish?—A. Yes. Oh, well, it is the same way—there is no secret about that.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. I think it would be well if Mr. Cooper would give us this information.—A. Well, will this information go through the Commission to the Government?

Mr. WILMOT.—Every syllable will go to the Government along with the report from the Commissioners, etc.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Oh, well, if Capt. Cooper has some process of his own I don't think he should be pressed for it. The last question you asked Mr. McNeelly—about 300 licenses being issued and about hurting their business—I said I thought it was equitable if a limit was placed on the number of licenses on the river, if fishermen should have half and cannerymen the other half. I meant to say that if not enough fishermen to take them up the cannerymen should take up the balance.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. If 300 were given to cannerymen and 300 to fishermen it would bring them down to 15 licenses each—i.e., the cannerymen—now, if there were more cannerymen built it would bring down the number to even less.—A. Well, the business will adjust itself—no cannerymen will be built unless they are going to pay. In a poor season, 600 boats will be well enough.

Q. Then you think the river can be over-fished?—A. Yes; the river can be fished out.

Q. What is the experience on the Columbia River?—A. Well, the boats were so thick—there were 1,000 boats on the river—the boats on the bar were so thick that hardly a salmon could get by.

Q. Would you consider that an over-fished place—too much fishing at the mouth of the river?—A. Yes; I think fishing should be kept within Garry Point and the bar outside in this river. In three seasons over there after they got so many boats—the year before I went there they had probably 500 or 600 boats at the outside—that was in '76 or '77 I fished first—and they doubled the number of boats. Fish were fairly plentiful, but after that—well, the result will show—there are nearly a quarter of the cannerymen there now as were there some years ago.

Q. Is the mouth of the Columbia River much the same as the Fraser?—A. Oh, yes: except that the Columbia River is on a much larger scale.

Q. If 300 or 400 boats were fishing at the mouth of the river here, it would be in proportion to the 1,000 boats at the mouth of the Columbia?—A. Oh, yes: it would be a great deal more.

Q. And are you satisfied that too much fishing at the bar is prejudicial to fish?—A. Yes, it is, I have observed since I have been here that fish have run later and the quality of fish has depreciated very much.

Q. Then do I understand you that the proportion of fish caught in the later seasons—probably due to over-fishing—is not in as good condition for canning as those earlier?—A. No, they are not—I think they are outside too long as they come later—I think fishing on the bar has caused that—I would not feel sure about that only that I have noticed that after the close season—Saturday and Sunday—the fish afterwards come in in greater abundance and drop off at the latter end of the week. If it was only on Sunday night when fishing commences I would say it was because the fish have come in Sunday, but I have noticed they run thick on Monday and then run thinner through the week.

Q. It is you think the constant fishing at the mouth keeps fish from coming into the river and that excessive fishing there would more or less affect the general fisheries of the river?—A. Yes, I think so.

Q. And do you say then that your views are that excessive fishing there has caused a tendency to have later runs of fish in the river afterwards?—A. I think so—they are getting later all the time.

Q. The earlier fish come in and are caught and that late fish are in worse condition than earlier ones?—A. Yes: I would not undertake to say that in one or two years or more—I would not say fish would come in earlier—it would take time—it is gradual—we would not see the effect in one or two years.

Q. Then that would be apparently borne out—all the canners say they would desire fish for canning from the first run?—A. Do you mean that fish from the first run should be hatched out?

Q. That fish from the first run should be taken and their eggs hatched out?—A. Oh, yes; I would agree with that because the first fish in are the most favourable by far.

Q. Is it your experience that sockeye are the most valuable?—A. Yes, it is sockeye we are discussing. I am more in favour of hatching out red spring salmon if possible for the reason they bring more money into the country, because a fisherman catches a spring salmon and gets from two bits to 50 cents and that money is left here while the money for canning mostly goes out of the country. The money a Chinaman gets we get no benefit from that—then money goes for tins and very little is left here.

Q. Then you think shipping fresh fish is more desirable than the canning business?—A. Yes, certainly; it is a question which will benefit the community more and if we can get a \$1 left for each fish instead of a few cents it is so much better.

Q. Do I understand you to say the catching of fish for shipment fresh would be much more desirable for the employment of white labour than canning?—A. Oh, yes; there would be no use for Chinamen there.

Q. And no offal?—A. None whatever.

Q. While one-third of the sockeye goes in the river?—A. Yes, about that.

Q. Do you know what freezers get for their fish?—A. Yes, from 10 to 15 cents per pound.

Q. And how much do canners get?—A. Well, I think all the canneryman gets the benefit of is 2 cents, probably not more.

Q. Do you think the freezing of sockeye fish would be profitable?—A. Probably not because there are such great numbers we could not get away with them. There is a limited market for fresh fish while there is practically an unlimited one for canned goods. I don't wish to prejudice the department against the canneries as against the freezers, but I simply state what I think would be most beneficial to the country.

Q. What advantage has a cannery where a canner has a boat with four men and fishermen have but two?—A. Oh, outside fishermen will catch more fish every day.

Q. Why?—A. Well, for the simple reason that the fisherman gets so much for every fish he gets while the other gets \$2 a day. I know all about it—I have been there. I have had many camps and have had to fire men who were engaged and had sold their fish to fishermen.

Q. If two men fish twenty-four hours they would in all probability be likely to catch more than two men would in twelve hours?—A. Well, yes; of course—it looks that way I know.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. But as a rule the men who fish for themselves fish more hours than those employed by the day?—A. Yes, I have fished for the twenty-four hours myself.

By Mr. Wilnot:

Q. You would not be much use then to yourself or anybody else would you?—A. Well, I slept in the boat on the end of the net as it drifted down.

Q. Well, if you have nothing further Capt. Cooper, I think that will do—I think that we have gone pretty well over the ground.

MR. THOMAS LADNER, of Ladner's Landing, B.C., who had previously given evidence before the commission requested permission to be heard further and was duly sworn.

MR. LADNER.—What I wish to say is this that in giving my evidence I went on to say that I was simply representing the Wellington Cannery. I omitted to say that

with Mr. Laidlaw and others I represent seven canneries, and I wish to say that I represented the seven canneries in my evidence.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. And you are one of the representatives of a company with others of seven canneries? How many on the Fraser?—A. Five, and one on the Skeena and one on the Naas.

Q. A company formed for mutual interest?—A. A company formed for mutual interest.

Q. A syndicate?—A. No, merely our own capital.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Well, Mr. Ladner, it has been stated here that you had principal charge of the oil factory for this company—now, would you kindly state to the commission the capacity of the canneries and the quantity of oil, &c., and what you did with the offal?—A. Well, this year according to instructions from the department, or the representatives of the department here, we went to the expense of building an oilery at a cost of \$3,000 or \$4,000.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Do I understand you to say that the department asked you to build an oil factory?—A. No, but the Government said they intended to enforce the law.

Q. That was in existence?—A. Well, I don't know. I don't know. I don't read the law, as a rule—we leave that to persons who are paid to tell us.

Q. Did you have to ask that it should not be enforced? I may say that the minister rescinded it for the one year only, therefore last year the statute would hold good, and the law should have been enforced.—A. I understand it in this way, from the man who had charge of the business here—Mr. Mowat—that they were going to enforce it, and we went to work to provide against it, though much to our regret.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Did they enforce it?—A. No, they did not. We complied with it, while everyone else was allowed to go free.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. What did you do?—A. We built an oilery at a cost of \$4,000.

Q. Did you make anything?—A. No, we did not; and yet Mr. Wilmot wants us to build another.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. No; I may mention that what I said was that your Provincial Government here were inducing Crofters to come here, and that a company was being formed for disposing of fish offal by erecting oil factories, &c., and what I also said was that from accounts given by scientists and others, it would be beneficial for these projects to be started?—A. You are speaking on theory, Mr. Wilmot. I am speaking from practice. During my experience, Mr. Wilmot, I have found a man can make any amount of money on paper, but when it comes down to practice, it is a very different thing—that is the trouble with your scientific men: on paper they are all right, but when it comes down to practical application and hard facts, they are wanting. Now, your scientists have spoken on paper about making this offal into guano, and that it was worth so much money—\$30 a ton, or even more, I think they said. Now, we have manufactured this fertilizer, but it is worthless. We are willing to take \$20 a ton, yes, anything for it, to get rid of it. I have heard parties state here that the fertilizer could be shipped and the oil sold, but I am speaking with practical knowledge acquired from practical experience in the matter.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Have you ever planted it—ever tried it in the ground?—A. It has been tried—Will Rich tried it at the Landing in a small way, but he did not find much out.

Q. Well, you have good land there, Mr. Ladner. Suppose it was put on the poor land?—A. Well, perhaps it would be good there, but it did not seem to make any difference. We are quite willing to sell it to any one very cheap—to any one that wants to experiment on it. I am going to send some to Westminster for sale and am going to have some tried this year.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Did you make any calculation at that factory what it would be to you as a fertilizer?—A. No; we reckoned the guano as nothing—that is our loss.

Q. Well, if guano is worth \$34 a ton down east, would it take all that to take it there?—A. Well, there is no query at all, because you cannot reduce it to such a dry state that you could take it there—the crews would not take it, because there would be such a stench nobody could remain near it.

Q. I suppose you know what coal oil is?—A. Oh yes, coal oil is the very essence of Eau de Cologne compared with the fertilizer. (Laughter).

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. I see Dr. Fagan is here now, and as he may have very little time we might go on with him, if Mr. Ladner will give way—no doubt he has covered what he desired to say?—A. Oh yes, I am willing to make way for the doctor—if there is any other matter occurs to me I can let you know of it again.

Mr. Ladner thereupon retired.

CHARLES FAGAN, M.D., of New Westminster, a native of Ireland, living in British Columbia about five years, and practising medicine in New Westminster and its surroundings, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. I would like to ask Dr. Fagan whether he is aware of any bad effect among his patients from drinking Fraser River water?—A. I think so.

Q. Is it marked?—A. Yes, decidedly marked.

Q. In what way?—A. Typhoid fever, and it is increasing every year.

Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Do many cases prove fatal?—A. Yes they are the worst cases we have in this province.

Mr. Higgins :

Q. You say many prove fatal?—A. Yes, a fair proportion.

Q. Traced directly to the water of the Fraser River?—A. Yes, that was my opinion.

Q. Any cases on the higher levels?—A. No, none.

Q. And during the fishing season?—A. Yes, during the fishing season.

Q. Not from waters, etc., around their own doors?—A. No, not that I am aware of.

Q. Does a stench arise from cess-pools or cisterns?—A. I have not noticed that.

Q. Have you ever been up as far as Chilliwack?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever observed the numbers of dead fish on the water there?—A. Yes.

Q. In great numbers?—A. Yes, in great numbers.

Q. Then a person drinking water impregnated with dead fish would have the same case?—Yes, but at the mouth of the river where the tide ebbs and flows and the offal is left there and then the sun plays upon it, and of course the effect would be much greater.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—We are very much obliged to you doctor for coming here—we don't want to detain you any longer than necessary. There is nothing further I wish to ask.

Mr. WILMOT.—Anything else Mr. Higgins?

Mr. HIGGINS.—Nothing more.

Mr. WILMOT.—That will do Dr. Fagan—thank you.

Mr. THOMAS LADNER, of Ladner's Landing, who had given way for Dr. Fagan, the previous witness, was now recalled.

Mr. LADNER.—Dr. Reinhardt, of Vancouver, could give you important information on that point—he is the doctor down at the Landing—also Dr. Wilson.

By Mr. Armstrong :

We have summoned Dr. Wilson. (Continuing.) Q. I want to find out how many gallons of oil you made and from how many canneries you took offal?—A. We made about 100 barrels, each barrel containing on an average about forty-five gallons—we took offal from about 160 boats—five canneries.

Q. Did you get the whole of the offal from five canneries?—A. Yes, we took all except on one occasion—the Delta one day was staging the bins and the whole of the offal dropped down—with that one exception the whole of the offal was taken.

Q. You had the product from five canneries in this factory to use and you produced about 4,000 gallons?—A. Yes, about that—4,500 gallons or 4,000 gallons.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Q. What did you get for it per gallon?—A. A portion of it sold at 30 cents and some at 40 cents—average about 35 cents and half of it we have still left. We are refining it and trying to make it better.

Mr. WILMOT.—Q. To what class of individuals do you sell it—for local or export purposes?—A. Oh, well; it is used for skid purposes.

Q. Do farmers use it?—A. No, not at all—I have used it myself for lubricating purposes but it is no use—it gums up.

Q. Is there any process of refining it for that purpose?—A. No, I don't think so—the more you refine it the worse it gets, unless you put something else with it—it seems to get more gummy—they use crude oil for skid purposes where if you take the refined article it will be no good.

Q. Then it is better in the crude state for skid purposes?—A. Well, I would say that if we sold more.

Q. Is your establishment a large one?—A. Pretty large—last summer we had four men employed. When you speak of actually running it, it would be necessary to have four men, or five, or perhaps six, and a steamer and two scows for every cannery.

Q. And that complement of work would run the factory satisfactorily as far as quantity is concerned?—A. Yes, as far as quantity is concerned, but not provide the steamer you use, the more unsatisfactory it would be.

Q. If it would prove satisfactory it would be a convenient way for canneries to get rid of offal?—A. By all means.

Q. Do I understand you to say that the fertilizer produced is in a liquid state?—A. Yes, it is not in a dry state.

Q. But it could be dried?—A. I don't think so—it has been tried before at Burrard Inlet and they could not make it dry enough to ship it.

Q. Would not the process of heat make it fit for shipment?—A. No.

Q. Could not it be sent in barrels or tanks?—A. Well, I don't know—it is not exactly a liquid—it is a pulp, but the expense would be so great to make it fit for shipment that it would be of no use.

Q. That is only theory too.—A. That is theory—paper.

Q. It is unfortunate, sir, your first trial in making oil?—A. Very unfortunate. I would recommend one more thing before I quit. According to my ideas of the matter it would be well for us to have here appointed in British Columbia a local Advisory Board, and which would save the Government all the expense of sending our friend Mr. Wilmot over here, for I think if we had a Board here of good level-headed men we could look after the business better than at present.

CHARLES STANLEY, a native of England—18 years in British Columbia, residing along the Fraser River and describing himself as a fisherman, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well sir, what do you want to say?—A. Well, I think the licenses are issued very unfairly, and I think there should be a limit of licenses on the river—about 600—but canneries to have half and the fishermen half—such freezers, such as Port and others, should have no licenses, because they hand them over to the canneries in July.

Q. And if they don't hand them over?—A. They should then have licenses—they should not be transferable in any way—they should be entitled to licenses if they deal legitimately in fish, but selling them to canneries is wrong.

Q. Would one license be sufficient for each fisherman?—A. Yes; they are not entitled to more.

Q. And on those terms you would be satisfied?—A. I would be satisfied—in regard to offal—I think it should be taken from the canneries and thrown in salt water.

Q. Why do you come to that conclusion?—A. Because it remains around the water and effects the water and you cannot drink it—it makes you sick.

Q. Have you had any experience of the effects of sickness from it?—A. Yes; it made me sick several times.

Q. A permanent sickness or for a few days?—A. For a few days.

Q. Have any of your neighbours been effected except for a few days?—A. Well, many have been affected—the Indians won't even take the water from the shores—they go out in deep water and get it. The factory below is not built to get rid of it. It could be easily taken out to the Gulf and other fish would soon eat it up.

Q. Have you ever fished under license?—Yes, sir; I have both fished and ran camps for the canneries. I don't think Indians should have licenses.

Q. Why?—A. Because the Government gives them ploughs and cultivators, &c., and allows them to fish all the year round—the Government don't give me any ploughs or cultivators.

Q. The Indians, though, claim to be the rightful sons of the soil before you came here?—A. Yes; but they have the right to fish the year round.

Q. What about the license fees?—A. I think fishermen should pay less than cannerymen do.

Q. Why?—A. Because the cannerymen employs daily labour and has the whole profit out of the fish—he gets them cheaper.

Q. Have you ever fished on any other rivers?—A. Yes; on the Columbia and Skeena.

Q. Should there be any difference between the fees on the Skeena and the Fraser?—A. No, nor in any other river in the province.

Q. How do you fish on the Columbia River—under license?—A. No, sir; I never knew of any man having to get a license while I was there—you don't require any.

Q. Was your average catch of salmon pretty good?—A. Some years it was—some years it was not.

Q. What was your average catch under your license?—A. The average for those three years was about 4,000 fish.

Q. And the average price you got for them?—A. About 10 cents.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What are your ideas as to the close season—the prevention of fishing on Sunday?—A. I think that about right—I think I would let it remain as it is—from Saturday morning to Sunday night.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. And suppose this offal was towed out into the current, would that relieve you?—A. No, I think if thrown anywhere in the river it would be taken back by the tide.

Q. Would it not go out with the tide if thrown out—there is quite a current, you know?—A. No, I think the incoming tide would bring it all back.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Does it effect your nets in fishing?—A. Yes, it gets in among the meshes and gives a fellow much trouble to get it out.

Q. Do you ever get any entrails in the meshes?—A. Yes, often.

Q. If all the offal were put in the river a large portion would be taken out by the tide would it not?—A. Yes, a large portion would, but a large portion would come back with the tide.

Q. And get in your nets?—A. Yes, it gives a good deal of trouble getting them out.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Do you ever see any dead fish in the river?—A. Yes, a good many.

Q. Would they not be as much harm as offal?—A. Well, no doubt they would but they should be taken out.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. It may be an obligation of the Government to take them out. Are fish floating down in comparatively fresh state or not?—A. Sometimes they are—sometimes they are not.

Q. Have you been far up river, Mr. Stanley?—A. Yes, I have been up the Harrison River.

Q. Many fish dead there?—A. Yes, I have seen many of them.

Q. Are fish in Harrison River the same as here and do they go back? The late Mr. Mowat said that only 25 per cent ever got back?—A. The farther they go up of course it is harder for them to get back.

Mr. HIGGINS.—There must be a great number of those fish and they must have an effect upon the river.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, they get them in the nets.

Mr. HIGGINS.—A few—but they dissolve, most all of them—the bodies of fish dissolve very fast in salt water—they soon disappear.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What is the average weight of fish you catch?—A. About six pounds.

Q. Have you any experience in seine fishing?—A. Yes, I have done some seine fishing.

Q. Where?—A. In Mud Bay.

Q. Would you consider seine fishing or net fishing with drift nets, more injurious?—A. I think a seine is—it would take more fish.

Q. Do you think seines should be allowed at the mouths of rivers?—A. No, sir; I think it decidedly injurious.

Q. Have you formed any ideas or views in regard to the hatchery on this river?—A. I think the hatchery is good.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well, sir; that will do if you have nothing further to state.

DR. W. DEW. SMITH, M.D., of New Westminster, a native of Canada, and a practising physician and surgeon in New Westminster for 6 years, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. The object, Dr. Smith, in having you come here is to ask you for your views from a sanitary stand-point in regard to offal being thrown into the river?—A. Do you mean as regards its effect upon the population?

Q. On man, or on fish, as far as that is concerned.—A. Well, I hardly know just where abouts to start—if you will just give me some idea.

Q. Well, are you aware that offal is thrown in from the canneries?—A. Yes; I know that for a fact—I have seen it.

Q. Do you think the offal thrown in would effect the water in any shape?—A. Yes; I think it would—more particularly where there was slack current.

Q. Where there were slack currents would it be more injurious to the health of persons—residents?—A. Well, I may say there is no uncertainty as to that—a large number of authorities say that sewage does not effect the water—in fact some people say people get fat upon it. There was a Royal Commission sat in England some time ago which found that it did not effect the water injuriously, so it is a point not settled yet.

Q. Well, from your own knowledge—can you say injurious effects are arising from offal?—A. I have no personal knowledge.

Q. What are your personal views as to the correctness of offal being thrown into the river?—A. Well, that is a question which I have given too little interest to—of course we are above the offence here—but I think in a river like we have here it does little hurt.

Q. Does it do any harm?—A. Well, as I have told you I have been here 6 years, and I have seen none of it.

Q. Have you been down the river yourself to see?—A. Well, I have had practice down as far as Ladner's, and I have had no experience in its bad effects—if deposited in the channel it would be better than in shallow water where it would lie and decompose.

Q. Then from your personal knowledge you know of no bad effects from throwing offal into the river?—A. No, none at all.

Q. Are you one of those who think that throwing offal into the water would cleanse it or purify it?—A. No, it would not cleanse it.

Q. It would change it somewhat from the normal state?—A. Yes, but when I say "not injurious" I mean if it is flowing water—if in stagnant water or in a place where it would decompose, it certainly would be injurious.

Q. Then if making a lodgment along the shores of the river or in shallow water it would be injurious?—A. Yes; if the water was consumed from that immediate neighbourhood it might produce disease like dysentery and such like.

Q. Would it have a tendency to produce typhoid fever?—A. No, typhoid fever is a thing which only comes from another case of typhoid.

Q. But, would typhoid be produced from deposits on the shore which produce miasmatic effects?—A. No.

Q. Then you don't know of its having produced any injury to health?—A. No, I do not know of any it has produced.

Q. But it would if deposited in bays and sloughs where it would be exposed to heat?—A. Yes.

Q. But not in flowing water?—A. No, because in flowing water it would be carried away and eaten up by scavenger fish.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Doctor, you are Health Officer of this town?—A. Yes.

Q. What is the state of the general health of the inhabitants?—A. Good.

Q. Any sickness in the summer?—A. Yes, a little.

Q. Any cases of enteric in summer?—A. Well, they usually start in September or October.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Is that after the fishing or during its continuance?—A. It is generally after the fishing season.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. You practice outside this town?—A. Yes, sometimes—in cases where parties would be patients of mine.

Q. Any cases of typhoid fever in town?—A. Yes.

Q. And on the higher levels where people would not drink water supplied from the river?—A. Oh, yes; above that.

Q. Have you ever been called to Ladner's for typhoid or enteric fever?—A. No.

Q. Have you ever had any cases that you would attribute to offal?—A. No—not at all.

Q. Do you ever drink Fraser River water unadulterated?—A. Yes, it is not worse than Ottawa River water—I have had some of that.

Q. Have you ever been up to Chilliwack?—A. No—not above Mission.

Q. Have you ever seen any dead fish in the river?—A. Well, I have seen some floating in the water and along the bank.

Q. Then you think if any typhoid fever in this town it is not attributable to drinking the water of the Fraser River?—A. No, I would not say that, but I do think it would be attributable to the water being contaminated higher up—typhoid is produced always by a previous disease—it produces microbes—that we hear so much of now (the newspapers of the day being full of accounts of "Koch's lymph") and these microbes are in the intestine canal and the way they spread is by evacuations.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Typhoid must produce typhoid?—A. Yes.

Q. Where was the first case of typhoid from then—A. Well, (Laughter) I cannot tell that.

Q. It is not contagious?—A. No, it is not.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. A healthy person coming in contact with a person with typhoid fever—would they get it?—A. Well, if they inhaled the evacuations—it is generally dispersed by inhalations from stools where they are thrown away.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Would effects from diarrhoea produce typhoid fever?—A. No.

Q. Then you say this enteric fever—it is comparatively in the fall of the year?—A. Yes, they start in the fall and go on through the winter.

Q. What is enteric fever?—A. That is simply another name for typhoid.

Q. Then from your knowledge of offal by being deposited in the bays and sloughs, the effects would be in the fall would it not?—A. Yes, I suppose it would.

Q. And these lodgments of offal would be after the fishing is over, and results would then follow?—A. Yes, that would be the results then.

Q. And enteric diseases are most in the fall and winter?—A. Yes.

Q. Well, we are much obliged to you, Dr. Smith, for your coming from your duties, but it is one of those matters about which we wished to derive knowledge, you know.—A. You are quite welcome, sir.

No more witnesses presenting themselves to give evidence the Chair declared the Commission adjourned at 4.10 p.m. to meet again at the same place at 10 a.m., on the 29th February, 1892.

Mr. WILMOT.—I wish to inform the public that the Commission will wind up its business here, if possible, on Monday morning.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.,

MONDAY, 29th February, 1892.

Morning Session.

The Commission assembled at 10 a.m.

Present:—Mr. S. Wilmot, presiding; Hon. D. W. Higgins, Mr. Sheriff Armstrong, Mr. C. F. Winter, secretary.

JOHN IBBOTSON, a native of England, resident of New Westminster district for thirty-four years, describing himself as a fisherman and farmer, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, sir, what do you wish to represent to this commission ?—A. Well, what is it you want ?

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. But you volunteer your evidence, do you not ?—A. Well, what I think about the fishing business is this :—I started in New Westminster about twenty-seven years ago, when first I went fishing, as near as I can recollect. Four years ago about, I was working for Mr. Wadhams for wages—running camps and taking charge of Indians, and the like of that—and I was told there that I had better get a license for myself, but it was an off year like this one—we have two good years and two off years—I have never known it to fail. We may not catch the fish that run up this river always corresponding—

Q. You think a crop of eggs laid down this year will produce a crop four years hence ?—A. That is my experience without fail—there was only one year there was a failure, but there is as many fish as ever there was.

Q. Yes, that is your knowledge as to these alternate run of fish ?—A. Yes ; well, they told me that year at the cannery that there was going to be a limit to the licenses and any one who had not a license that year would not get one.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What year was that, sir ?—A. It was four years ago.

Q. 1888 then ?—A. I guess it would be—it was four years ago, because it was a year like this. I was told that the licenses were going to be limited and I would not get a license unless I had one, but it seemed so unreasonable to me that one should get a license and another not that I put no confidence in it. The consequence was that next year which I thought would be a good year, when I made application for two licenses—I had two since—I found that although I had been raised in the country I could not get a license.

Q. In 1889 you could get no license ?—A. I could get no license.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Why ?—A. Well he said he didn't know me and I had not any the year before—at the same time I had a fish market in town rented from other business—Mr. Armstrong knows me very well.

Q. Well, you did not get any that year ?—A. No ; I didn't get any.

Q. Did you get any next year ?—A. Well, I thought next year would not see people getting licenses that had no more right than I had and I thought it must be through influence and I went to a man in town here that I knew and he has some little influence and he gave me a little piece of writing.

Q. That was in 1890—who got you the license ?—A. Well, I don't know whether it would be right to tell—

Q. Well, you have taken the oath and should tell all you know.—A. Well, if I must tell—it was Mr. Cunningham—I don't know what he put in the note.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. To whom was this note addressed to ?—A. To Mr. Mowat, the Inspector of Fisheries.

Q. Did you get licenses this last year ?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. One or three ?—I got one—I didn't get any for the boys. The fish seem to be as plentiful now as ever before, and the way I account for it is this way : when we

came here first and started fishing, we caught as many as now—well, I think the capacity of the fishing grounds they will engage produces so many fish anyway, and if it was not, the fish produced—you could almost wander over them.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Do you think it possible to reduce fish by overfishing?—A. Well, there is a remedy for that, and what I believe in is justice and equality, and I think every man who is a British subject should be able to fish—you should give every one who is a British subject a license, and then there is the close time at the end of the week, and if fish are being reduced, you could put on more time forward at night, but there is enough in the day time.

Q. Do fish run more at night or day time?—A. Well, I don't know. If you have any close time, have it in day time—let them fish at night always.

Q. Are not the most fish caught in night time?—A. Well, I don't know. We catch most of the fish at the rise of the tide—sometimes it is night, sometimes day.

Q. Then, you think every British subject should get a license?—A. Yes, I think so.

Q. What about canneries—should they get all the licenses they like?—A. Well, I don't think there is any other way but to give canneries one license, because they will get them anyway.

Q. If you gave canners 100 licenses, would they employ outside fishermen?—A. Well, they always do get them.

Q. But if canneries got 100 licenses each, would it not stop regular fishermen from selling their fish?—A. Well, I don't see any more justice in giving fishermen a monopoly over cannerymen than in giving cannerymen the monopoly over fishermen—but suppose you gave cannerymen no licenses at all—well, they would be obliged to either shut up their canneries or give fishermen just what they ask for their fish. Then, suppose canneries only have ten licenses—the fish are often so numerous they cannot get away with them, and when they have licenses of their own, they can put these boats out and take the men to work in the cannery to take care of the fish.

Q. Would ten be enough to run an establishment, with what they could get outside?—A. Yes, I think so.

Q. What about the offal?—A. Well, my opinion is that offal in water does not hurt anything, unless where it gets on the shore. The water is very cold—I have been to the bottom twice, and I know it is very cold.

Q. Did you see any offal there? (Laughter.)—A. I didn't wait to see. (Laughter.)

Q. Then, you think offal on shore is injurious—in what way?—A. Well, it becomes offensive.

Q. Do you think, if thrown in deep water, would it be carried away?—A. Oh, well, it gradually works away. So long as it is covered with water, it is all right, but, of course, on shore it gets offensive.

Q. What are the injurious effects when it gets on shore?—A. Well, I suppose its disagreeable smell—that is about all I know of.

Q. Do you think it would be injurious to health?—A. Well, I don't think it is any benefit to health—it ought to be kept off shore.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Do you know of any one getting ill from drinking Fraser River water?—A. Well, I have drank the water for many years—I never found any offence, but it is the way when you get a change of water. If you go to Victoria you will find the water has offence.

Q. Then a person coming from Victoria would find a change in the water—would you think it from the dead salmon in the water or otherwise?—A. Well, I have drank water from the Fraser River for many years—there is always a quantity of dead salmon in the river.

Q. Do you think salmon all die in the river?—A. No I don't—I think many get to the sea.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. You have been fishing about twenty-seven years?—A. Yes, off and on.

Q. And probably have been employed by canneries?—A. Yes ; by contract a good deal of the time, and a good deal of the time I have run a store here like Vienna.

Q. But as soon as you got licenses of your own, you fished all the year round?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you think, is the close season beneficial—how many days in the week?—A. Oh, twenty-four hours are plenty at the present time.

Q. What time should that be?—A. I don't fish on Sunday in day time but go out Sunday night. They have hardly anything to do in day time on Monday, and if you say, close all Sunday, some will go out Sunday night just the same.

Q. You think the Sunday close time should be made so as to not affect canneries or fishermen—why not run it all day Sunday, then?—A. Well, you asked me what time would be best for a close time, and I am telling you.

Q. And what time would be best then?—A. What I meant on Sunday night is—we go out at six o'clock in the evening and fish till Monday morning. We would go out from Saturday night until Sunday morning if the close time in day was Saturday and Sunday, twelve hours.

Q. What about the transfer of licenses? If a man had eight or ten should he be permitted to sell and not use them himself? If you got ten licenses on the understanding that you were to fish for yourself should you be able to stop at home and sell to other fishermen?—A. Why no ; I think he should use them himself, but I don't think he should get them any more than others for I think every one should get all they want.

Q. But would it be just to other fishermen if I could sell mine to others?—A. Why no ; they should not be transferable, but you should make it so there would be none to transfer—make the law so there is no need to break it.

Q. Where have you fished—at the mouth, or up river?—A. I have fished all over the river, from Ladner's up.

Q. Ever from Ladner's down—on the Sand Banks?—A. No ; I have had contracts, and men could go where they like.

Q. Do you think there cannot be too many boats fished down there?—A. You cannot keep the fish from coming in.

Q. What is the usual average of fish that you would have caught during your fishing period annually?—A. Well, in a big year about 12,000 to 14,000, and the next year 7,000 or 8,000, and the next probably 2,000 to 3,000.

Q. What might be the average size of salmon in weight—would they be 6, 7 or 8 pounds?—A. Well, I think about 7 pounds—the more numerous the salmon are the smaller they are in weight—I think about 7 pounds, and I think they won't fill more than 5 tins—about $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 tins.

Q. Could you give us an idea as to whether there should be any discrimination in the fees charged for licenses—should all be alike?—A. Why, of course ; one man should not pay more than another.

Q. Should Fraser River men pay more than is paid on the Naas and Skeena?—A. No ; I think they should be equal ; I believe in justice and equality in everything. I don't claim because I am a fisherman that I should be allowed to fish because I have been fishing so long and raised a family in the country ; I think any man should be allowed to fish as well as me if a British subject.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, then ; you say you never fished at the mouth of the river?—A. No ; I never fished outside of the sand heads.

Q. What do you consider the mouth of the river?—A. Well, I would consider the mouth of the river below Garry Point.

Q. Would you consider the sandheads the mouth of the river?—A. Well, I would consider the mouth of the river where the water falls off.

Q. Where the sand heads disappear?—A. Yes.

Q. Would you prevent fishing on those sand heads?—A. No.

Mr. WILMOT.—And you think it does not prevent fish from coming into the river : have you never caught salmon elsewhere—in Columbia River or in Mud Bay?—A. I have caught fish in the Columbia River.

Q. But if nets are put across the mouth would fish have a chance to get up?—A. Yes, I think so; they will go under, and in all shapes; in slack water the fish run more regularly—in swift water they run straighter.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. What are the depth of nets, then?—A. There should be no special depth; the way to regulate fishing is by close time.

Q. Then you think fishing on the sand heads would not be detrimental—it does not drive fish away from the river?—A. No; it does not drive them away; when fish are ready to come into the river they will come or else be caught: For instance, here (illustrating his meaning on the table) are the nets, one right behind the other—the man down the river will not probably get many fish, and the next one will get lots of them; they are on their way home.

Q. What do you mean by a salmon going home?—A. To the spawning beds, of course.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Well, if there is a barrier across the river, can they go?—A. Well, you are worrying me. (Laughter.) Of course, if it was a natural barrier, they could not get past.

Q. But if there was a barrier across, would it not prevent them from going home?—A. Oh, well, you cannot stop them like that—many will go home.

Q. Have you ever fished with seines?—A. No, sir; I don't know anything about seines; I never fished them.

Mr. WILNOT.—Thank you, sir; that will do.

Dr. W. REINHARDT, M.D., a native of Germany, residing in British Columbia about 3 years, and living at Ladner's Landing, B.C., for about 2 years, a practising physician and surgeon, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Have you anything to offer with regard to the river—with regard to the pollution of it, or injury done to man or beast by the throwing of offal in the river?—A. Well, of course, I have formed an opinion about that. There has been a good many cases of typhoid fever there, and it is an important question. That is the prevalent disease there.

Q. Have you formed an opinion as to the cause of that disease?—A. Yes; but it is not offal; it is the bad drainage there; there are no drains; every farmer can make ditches and cess-pools as he likes; there is no law whatever; they can do just as they like. Now take the Slough on which all these typhoid fever cases occurred. This slough has produced no typhoid fever during the big runs. Last year there were hardly any on that slough, while we had many cases of typhoid fever. I have been living right over the slough; it runs under my house, and I ought to know something about it. There was no offal thrown in last year, and I attribute the typhoid to bad weather and drainage. You cannot produce typhoid by decomposing animal matter. You know the Frenchmen and Germans eat Limburger cheese and other decomposed matter. You cannot produce typhoid fever by simply decomposed organic matter. The simple fact of organic matter being in a state of decomposition, does not say it is poisonous.

Q. You say there is want of drainage down there?—A. Yes; and I have talked over it with the Board of Health. I have told farmers not to drink the water. Now, with the Chinamen you have no typhoid fever, because the Chinamen do not drink the water, but boil it like tea—and in the old country, in big cities, would the people think of drinking the water? No; they put in a little whiskey or something to kill these germs. I call that slough nothing more than a ditch. Last year they put a dam in the slough—

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. What is the name of the slough?—A. Cohiluthan Slough. You see all the closets run into that slough—they have no right to drink it ; they should boil it.

Q. But has everybody to boil the water before they can drink it?—A. I moved away because I could not get good water.

Q. You moved away because you thought it unhealthy?—A. Yes ; I didn't want to bring my family there ; there has been typhoid fever there for some time ; it is not properly drained ; now, for instance, they want to widen the road there ; they simply throw up a dike and that settles it ; there is no law ; they do as they like.

Q. Where do the people throw their kitchen slops?—A. Into the slough—everything goes into it.

Q. But if they want drainage at all—a man must have drainage to carry his water, etc., down into the slough?—A. Yes ; but there is nobody to look after any—there is no board of health—the farmer can drain just as little or just as much as he likes.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Then you think offal has no bad effect at all?—A. Well, I don't think so—I think it will be a very unhealthy place, but not on account of the canneries.

Q. If no offal were thrown in, would it be better?—A. Well, there was very little thrown in.

Q. But, if none were thrown in, would it not be better for health—would not water in its normal or healthy state be injured by throwing offal into it?—A. Certainly ; I suppose it would be, but they have no right to drink it—whether the slough now is healthy or unhealthy—typhoid fever or not—I would not drink it.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. But do you think offal in previous years impregnated the slough there that fever could come after?—A. Well, you see, the germs must be formed—they are not formed except by the offspring of another egg and the germ is the origin of the being no matter how small it is.

Q. But may they not be increased by other foul matter?—A. Certainly ; but you find decomposing organic matter everywhere—in big cities you have cess-pools, closets, etc., and the germ is increased from them.

Q. But would not throwing offal in increase these germs? You say foul matter in cities has the effect of increasing germs of typhoid fever or sickness?—A. I can hardly answer the question like that. If you have a typhoid fever patient, in the wash excrement are these germs. Now, instead of destroying these germs it goes into the closet, and it goes into the soil, and as soon as it gets into the river I believe it will get destroyed.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Will it get in the land?—A. That is where it most lodges.

Q. Well then, this offal lying on the soil, will it produce germs?—A. Well, everything will produce germs—it is like living on a volcano—that is why it gets away over—from the turning up of the land—now in Germany it is proved by the rise and fall of surface water—as soon as the water rises there is no danger, but as soon as it goes away, then there is danger.

Q. Then as long as offal is in water it does not produce germs?—A. No.

Q. But as soon as the water leaves, it produces them?—A. Well, yes, of course, all things like that produce them.

Q. Then you think if put in rivers it does no harm?—A. Yes.

Q. You know pretty much what that soil is composed of down there? It is sedimentary deposit, is it not?—A. Yes ; most of it is peat.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Have you ever lived in an ague country, doctor?—A. No ; but I have been in New York—and when practising up country I have seen this sickness come on—but they should get fresh water there.

Q. Where could they get it?—A. Well, they could get it from the timber—they are 4 miles from the timber, but instead they prefer putting in a little whiskey.

Q. Would whiskey destroy these germs?—A. Well, no; not altogether, but to a large extent—now I may say that all these persons who were typhoid fever patients were all temperance people—I don't mean to say that whiskey did all the good in the cases of others who drank it, and did not have typhoid fever, but I would prefer taking bad whiskey to bad water.

LOUIS MACAVERI, a native of Italy, in British Columbia for eight years, a fisherman, and resident of New Westminster, was duly sworn.

(Being unable to speak English plainly his statements and the questions put to him were interpreted by John Stevens.)

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, what do you want to say?—A. He says he has been here for eight years and has applied for licenses these last four years and gave \$20 to Mr. Mowat's brother last year, and Mr. Mowat told him if any license was issued for him he would have it—he waited some time and then got his \$20 back.

Q. Is he a British subject?—A. Yes: here are his papers, (handing in certificate of naturalization).

Q. You have no other complaint except that you could not get a license when you applied for it?—A. He says that in his opinion he should have a license the same as any other persons who are British subjects—he has been here in New Westminster eight years and he has done nothing else but fishing.

Q. Has any one else got licenses since he put in his application?—A. Yes: two or three after he paid his \$20—one an Austrian and one a Spaniard.

Q. Were they British subjects?—A. Yes: they were naturalized two years ago—he says that he had to give his fish for 4 bits (50 cents) apiece while the rest had \$1 and \$1.25—he had no license but had a net, and consequently he had to take what was offered.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. How could one get \$1.25 and the other 50 cents?—A. Because he had to sell his fish to Mr. Port and Mr. Port had given him a license.

Q. Then if he had a boat of his own he would be able to deal with Mr. Port direct?—A. Well, that is what he thinks if he had a license.

Q. A boat was furnished by Mr. Port?—A. No, he owned a boat and net, but did not own a license.

Q. Well, I do not see how he was refused if he had a boat and net——?

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Well, he had no license—he could not have fished at all?—A. I know a case where Mr. Low was fishing and he got one pass only out of six.

Q. Then what he claims is that being a British subject and fisherman, he should get a license like any other man and he only wants but one?—A. Yes: one license and one boat.

Q. What number of fish may he have caught, of the sockeye family, when fishing for Mr. Port?—A. He says he didn't fish sockeyes for Mr. Port.

Q. Well, for anybody?—A. He says he took 1,000 fish for Mr. Ladner.

Q. Did he fish all the while?—A. No, about two weeks.

Q. And what did he get for the sockeye from Mr. Ladner?—A. Twelve and a half cents.

Q. Divided between himself and partner?—A. Yes.

MR. WILMOT.—Very well, that will do—we understand his grievance—we are obliged to you for interpreting for us.

On the question of adjourning to Victoria, raised by Hon. Mr. Higgins, it was unanimously resolved that the Commission would be kept open in Westminster till 12 o'clock noon, if evidence is forthcoming, and if not, that an earlier adjournment would be made to Victoria to meet there, at 10 a.m. on the day following departure from Westminster, and that Mr. Higgins be authorized to obtain a suitable room for holding the meetings of the Commission.

Dr. J. R. WILSON, M.D., of Ladner's Landing, a native of Canada, and living in British Columbia between 6 and 7 months, a practising physician and surgeon, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. I presume the sole object in having Dr. Wilson brought here is in regard to this offal question. Now, from your knowledge of matters at Delta can you give any light upon the good effects or evil effects of the lodgment of offal along the shore?—A. Offal thrown into the middle of the river with the current running at four or five miles an hour may not be injurious to the health of people living along the shores, but I think if it is thrown or lodges along the shores or is driven in the sloughs, I think it would be injurious to health.

Q. Have you any evidence as to injurious effects upon the health of people?—A. Well, about 75 per cent of the cases I was called upon to treat were typhoid fever and with persons residing along the slough. I don't mean to say that decomposing fish is the cause of the fever unless parties were predisposed by using the water.

Q. What was the nature of the diseases you attended?—A. Fevers and diarrhoea—by the action of the water on the intestine canals it left a suitable soil for the germs to act upon, i.e. germs producing typhoid fever.

Q. Have the cases been numerous during your experience?—A. Yes, I never had so many during my practice of seven years as I have had in the months of September and October when the fishing season was over last year.

Q. Is it more apparent then than in earlier spring?—A. Well, I was not there until last August—that is the time though for typhoid fever, in the autumn the microbes are greater then.

Q. Are any special reasons assigned by the medical fraternity why the autumn months produce fever?—A. Yes, after the hot dry summers and springs running dry, there is so much ground exposed to the sun, the evaporation, etc., is more likely to produce this effect.

Q. Will soil absorb injurious matter so that it is thrown off when the water recedes?—A. Yes, absorption of decomposing vegetable matter along the shores is the theory.

Q. What about animal matter?—A. Well, I cannot say—as well as decomposing vegetable matter—there is said to be some of it.

Q. But the animal matter, if added to it, would it be worse?—A. It might.

Q. Were the cases malignant?—A. The most malignant cases I have ever been sent up to treat were there.

Q. Is typhoid contagious?—A. Indirectly; the poison must go through a change before it enters the system—the germ that produces disease undergoes a change before it is fit to set up another disease.

Q. Are germs produced from decaying vegetable and animal matter?—A. The germs grow and multiply in vegetable matter.

Q. Is the origin of the germ known?—A. It feeds upon the vegetable matter—we don't know the beginning—these germs exist, and if they have anything to feed upon they multiply and increase.

Q. Are you of the belief or opinion that the deposition of quantities of offal in the river and its floating back upon the shores of the river are injurious to human health?—A. I am.

Q. And do you attribute in a degree—let it be large or small—that the seventy-five per cent of cases you have treated would have for their origin more or less of the

effects from this offal or not?—A. I am not prepared to say that—all I am prepared to say is that I believe it injurious to human health, and that it may have something to do with these cases.

Q. Have you any knowledge of its effects upon the brute creation—cows, &c.?—A. Well, that it would be injurious—it would be injurious through the milk—milk is a conductor of disease.

Q. And the more healthy the fluid the cows may drink, the milk would be the more healthy?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you any knowledge of its effects upon the flesh of animals—pigs being unfit for food, &c.?—A. I cannot say—I have heard it was, but I don't know of my own knowledge.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Doctor, is there only one slough in the vicinity of Ladner's Landing?—A. There are a number.

Q. But the one slough?—A. Well, that is the one which I think affects the health.

Q. But is it any different to the others?—A. Well, there is a cannery situated at the mouth of the slough.

Q. Are there any at the others?—A. No.

Q. Are you aware of any trench or system of dykes in the vicinity?—A. Yes.

Q. Are they stagnant or not?—A. Well, I think some of them are stagnant.

Q. Where are the closets drained to?—A. Into the ground.

Q. Would the land be over-flowed unless it was for the dykes—have you ever seen the land over-flowed?—A. Well, no, not since I have been there—I have seen a little of it over-flowed by the dam at the slough.

Q. Have you ever lived in a fever and ague country?—A. No.

Q. Do you think cattle that drink from this slough alone are affected?—A. Oh, well, I cannot say if only these are affected. I only say the milk would be affected if they drank of the water.

Q. Are you aware that dead fish come down the river in numbers?—A. Well, I know there are numbers in this slough.

Q. And would the effect from them be just as bad as from offal?—A. Yes; just as bad.

Q. And do you attribute to the fact that there is a cannery at the mouth of the slough, that there is typhoid fever there?—A. No, not necessarily—I think, though, it is because of offal being washed up.

Q. And do you say that good would be got if the cannery was not there?—A. No, the sanitary condition of the place is not good.

Q. Is there any board of health—any sanitary officer—any one to report to the Government that typhoid fever exists there?—A. Not any one that I know of—there are two police there whose duty they say it is, but I don't know.

Q. What is the condition of the bottom of the slough when the tide is out there?—A. I don't know—there is nothing particular.

Q. Does it look slimy?—A. Yes. I have seen dead fish also there.

Q. They would render the land around more slimy, would they not?

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, I was just going to ask the doctor were those fish whole fish or did they look decayed?—A. Some were whole fish, some were not.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. But what I want to get at is this: If dead fish are brought down by the current and deposited there, they would have just as bad an effect as offal?—A. Just as bad.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. All decomposing matter would be just as bad?—A. Just as bad.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. If offal were thrown out in the current, do you think it would be washed out to sea?—A. Well, I cannot say—it might be brought back into the sloughs.

Q. There is a current of four miles there?—A. Still, I think in fishing time they say the influence of the back tide is not much felt.

Q. Then, if the tide is running at six miles, they would have six hours to take offal out?—A. Yes.

Q. Are you aware of lots of offal lying around the shores of the slough?—A. No, I have not seen it.

Q. You have seen dead fish?—A. Yes ; sometimes too I have seen the offal.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What is the population of your village?—A. Three hundred or four hundred or so.

Q. Do you ever find that, as a rule, medical men recommend sanitary matters or measures in a small village like that?—A. No, I don't think they do.

Q. Was illness produced in the village or along the shore out among the farmers?—A. It was along this slough among the farmers.

Q. Are they fairly cleanly, industrious people, along that slough?—A. They are.

Q. Would you attribute any amount of uncleanness on their part to induce this typhoid?—A. No, they are not so uncleanly as to produce this.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I don't think the doctor understands that question. He has already said that all kitchen slops and deposits from closets go into the slough.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. But those conditions apply everywhere in the world—they are generally deposited just on the ground. Are the conditions there so adapted more than other places for the extension of the disease?—A. No, most of my patients were at the head of the slough.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. But any place where the tides sweep back and raises the deposit from the bottom up, I think, would be fine conditions for typhoid. Do you ever drink that water at all?—A. No.

Q. What do people drink down there?—A. They catch rain water and mix it, generally.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. If any dead fish or offal were not carried into that slough, would the water be palatable—drinkable?—A. No, I think not.

Q. From what cause?—A. From water closets along the shore.

Q. What inhabitants are there along the slough?—A. Twelve.

Q. And the deposits from these twelve persons would therefore pollute the slough?—A. No ; they are mostly living back from it.

Q. Some medical men have told us the deposits from these kind of things would purify the waters of the slough ; do you agree with that idea?—A. No, sir, I do not.

Mr. WILMOT.—It might not be amiss for me to read a few extracts from a report of the Ontario Agricultural Department, and see if you agree with them.

(Mr. Wilmot then proceeded to read from an article in the Victoria "Colonist" of 20th February, 1892, and in which the following conclusions were made :—)

1. It will utilize a bye product that otherwise is a total loss.
2. It will prevent the waters from becoming contaminated.
3. Its proper management must tend towards a more healthful surrounding.
4. Its return to the soils of the farm will partly offset the waste of our cities by sewage carried to the lakes and rivers.

5. If properly handled it will pay well.

Q. Do you agree with those sentiments?—A. I do ; I cannot say as to the expense of manufacture.

Q. No ; but as regards the health ?—A. Yes ; I quite agree.

Q. Do you know of Professor James ?—A. No, I don't know him.

Q. I may mention that you will find this in the "Colonist" of a few days ago, where the whole matter is laid down, and these are the conclusions that are come to.

Mr. T. LADNER (speaking from the audience).—Will you excuse me for a moment. As a person who is deeply interested in land at Ladner's Landing, I would like to suggest a question to be asked Dr. Wilson.

Mr. WILMOT.—Mr. Ladner, we have extended to you more than to any person opportunities to make statements.

Mr. LADNER.—I have heard several doctors make statements here ; now I would like to say that there is a saw mill from which——

Mr. WILMOT.—Then you wish me to ask the Doctor if mill refuse will not affect the public health ?—A. Yes ; it will aid towards it.

Q. And the combination of sawdust, offal, and other matter would produce greater effects than any one of them alone ?—A. Yes.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well, Doctor, that will do.

Dr. Wilson asked if his expenses would be allowed him, and was informed by the Chair that if he would submit his account for the same it would be forwarded to the department for consideration.

Mr. McTIERNAN, Indian Agent, who had previously given testimony, again presented himself.

Mr. McTIERNAN.—Mr. Wilmot has made a statement which I wish to contradict, in that he said that the Indians only come here and stay a little while and then go away again.

Mr. WILMOT.—Mr. Wilmot made no such statement—it was simply given in as evidence—I did not say it at all—some one else did. If you want proof, I have no objection in saying that I think Indians should have licenses as well as other men.

Mr. McTIERNAN.—Thank you, sir.

Mr. ALEX. EWEN, who had previously given evidence, asked permission to say a few words as to the pollution of the waters, and was again sworn.

Mr. EWEN.—We are all aware that during a freshet the river is very muddy—vegetable matter, &c., coming down, and we have a flat bank or beach, that is a ledge of banks, and about eighteen or twenty years ago it was very offensive here in New Westminster. Mr. Armstrong and a great many people know it just as well as I do. About the 1st of July the water begins to recede again, and leaves about a foot or eighteen inches of this deposit lying upon the bank—with a cane you will go down a foot or eighteen inches—that raises a very offensive smell when you are going through it, and turns up a very black offensive matter, and some days you will feel effects of it very bad, and in the early days when the effects were felt more than now, there were a good many hogs lying around, and it was good ground for them to work upon, and when they came down they raised a great stench. Late in the fall this all washed away, and in a few days the banks became firm again. You have a great deal of this along the Fraser River. It is a great deal worse, more hurtful to the stomach rather than the stench from the sawdust. Every person who has been living here upon the banks knows it, and it has been for every one to see, and it would be a good thing if the fishery inspector would take notice of it and see if it is not one of the causes that makes health bad upon the river, and you might get evidence to confirm that : and I have no hesitation in saying that it must have come under the observation of Mr. Armstrong.

Mr. WILMOT.—I may state, Mr. Ewen, that when sawdust is in a decaying condition, it is a very disagreeable substance and throws off a most offensive smell, and the Dominion Government is endeavouring to prevent its deposit in the water. At Ottawa we have a lot of it, and I know it is considered very offensive. However, about the river here, you say it deposits black sedimentary matter ?

Mr. EWEN.—Yes ; it leaves a black matter and when disturbed it raises a very offensive smell, and directly after the lodging of this matter the Oolachans come up the river, and many come upon the beach, and when hogs used to root there, it was for the Oolachans they were after.

Mr. WILMOT.—After this black matter becomes decayed and throws off an offensive smell and aids sickness—now could it not be increased by the deposit of a great quantity of offal ?

Mr. EWEN.—Yes ; but there is no fishing when this is gathered. Of course it would increase it—"every little makes a muckle" (laughter)—and everything added to the deposits will make matters worse.

The Commission adjourned at 12.10 p.m., to meet again at the same place at 2 p.m.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., Tuesday, 29th February, 1892.

Afternoon Session.

The Commission reassembled at 2 p.m., in the Court-house.

Present :—Mr. Chairman Wilmot, Mr. Sheriff Armstrong and Mr. Secretary Winter.

No evidence being forthcoming the Chairman declared the Commission adjourned till 4 p.m.

The Commission reassembled at 4 p.m.

Present :—Mr. Chairman Wilmot, Mr. Sheriff Armstrong and Mr. Secretary Winter.

No evidence being forthcoming the Chairman declared the Commission adjourned until 10 a.m., 1st March, at the same place of meeting.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., Wednesday, 1st March, 1892.

Morning Session.

The Commission assembled at the Court House at 10 a.m.

Present :—Mr. Chairman Wilmot, Mr. Sheriff Armstrong, and Mr. Secretary Winter.

In the absence of witnesses ready to proceed the Chairman at 10.15 declared the Commission adjourned until 11.15 a.m.

At 11.25 a.m., the Commission was called to order by Mr. Chairman Wilmot and proceeded to hear evidence as follows :—

Mr. HENRY D. BENSON, a native of St. John, N.B., but a resident of British Columbia for the past twenty-one years, now living at Ladner's Landing, and representing himself as engaged in lumbering and farming, was duly sworn :—

Mr. BENSON.—We had a meeting at Ladner's Landing on Saturday afternoon, in regard to fish offal as it affects the Delta people, and I was chairman of the meeting and have been delegated to hand in this petition to your Commission.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Are you Reeve of the municipality ?—A. I am Reeve of the municipality and was chairman of the meeting, and I am here to hand in to you the petition *re* offal and the minutes of the meeting.

The Chairman took the proffered papers and read from them aloud as follows :—

LADNER'S LANDING, B.C., 27th February, 1892.

A meeting was held in the Delta Town Hall, to discuss and protest against the action of the canners in casting fish offal into the Fraser River.

Chairman H. D. Benson, reeve of Delta municipality, opened the meeting by saying that fish offal was a great nuisance and hurtful to the bulk of residents of the municipality and that action should be taken to send a petition to the Fish Commission now sitting in New Westminster.

Mr. W. H. Ladner then arose and said that fish offal was a nuisance in the river, but thought it would make very good manure. Messrs. W. Arthur, E. S. Brown, Hy. Trim, and several others gave evidence that fish offal had to their certain knowledge caused many cases of sickness and a number of deaths. Mr. John Kirkland said that filth of any kind is detestable, and Mr. Glassford thought it advisable for the Delta Council to appoint a board of health. The chairman asked Dr. Wilson to state his opinion, but Dr. Wilson thought it unnecessary as he was to give his opinion before the Commission in New Westminster.

After a lengthy debate whether it would not be advisable to protest also against the sewage of the city of New Westminster from draining into the river, it was decided that the fish offal only should be protested against. Messrs. H. D. Benson, John Kirkland and W. H. Ladner, were appointed delegates to wait on the Fish Commission in New Westminster with the petition from the people.

After a vote of thanks to the chairman and secretary the meeting came to a close.

PETITION.

To the Fishery Commission now in session in New Westminster:

GENTLEMEN,—We, the undersigned residents of Ladner's Landing and vicinity, do hereby vigorously protest against the action of the canners in casting the fish offal into the river and vitiating the water which we drink, and not only is the water rendered impure, but the tide casts the offal on the low-lying lands along the sloughs, which decaying causes a most disgusting odour, making our locality unhealthy and undesirable to live in, and depreciating the value of our property. (Except what rain-water is caught in cisterns, the Fraser River water is the only water which we have to drink.)

(Signed.)

H. L. BENSON,
J. F. WADDELL,
C. S. FERGUSON,
CHARLES R. LORD,
THOS. THIRKILL,
G. A. WATSON,
S. B. BURR,
JOHN KIRKLAND,
HARRY TRIM,
WM. ARTHUR,
WM. H. LADNER,
WM. ALEXANDER,
A. E. TORRES,
W. J. LEARY,
E. HUTCHESON,
H. S. BROWNE,
STAINTON & SHAY,
FRANK McCULLOUGH,
D. M. MILLER,
D. B. GRANT,
J. McLEARN,

R. P. ALEXANDER,
Rev. T. S. GLASSFORD,
W. T. ARTHUR,
A. PORMITER,
F. PORMITER,
S. T. ELLIOTT,
JOHN GILCHRIST,
W. H. BURR, JR.,
WM. ANDERSON,
E. S. BROWNE,
JOHN SIMSON,
H. C. RAYSON,
JOSEPH JORDAN,
ALEX. GILCHRIST,
W. J. WATSON,
R. WATSON,
JOSIAH BATH,
W. A. McCALLUM,
ALEX. E. CONNOLLY,
A. CASULICH,
W. MCINTYRE,

F. KIRKLAND,
JOHN PERRAM,
H. HICKS,
W. B. PARRY,
E. GOUDY,
A. R. LEARY,
T. CURTIS,
E. D. OAKLYN,

THOS. ADSETT,
GEO. DENNIS,
BAKER WESTEMARK,
H. E. FALCONER,
D. GILCHRIST,
G. ADAMS,
W. WRIGHT,
F. F. RAITH.

LADNER'S LANDING, 27th February, 1892.

Mr. WILMOT.—This gentlemen, you desire to put before the Commission, and which will be filed with the papers of the Commission—it will be necessary to call upon some of the delegates for evidence?—A. You will see that Mr. Kirkland and Mr. Ladner are delegates with me.

Q. Yes; I think then, Mr. Benson, we will take the ordinary course with you and before asking questions will swear you as other witnesses.

The usual oath was then administered to Mr. Benson.

The CHAIRMAN (continuing)—Would you like to make any voluntary statement of your own in regard to this matter?—A. Yes; I would like to make a little statement in regard to the location, &c., and people in the Delta.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well, afterwards we may ask some questions?—A. I may state in the first place that at the Delta there are two sloughs running into the Delta—the Crescent and the Cohiluthan slough. The Crescent is some three or four miles, but it is dammed in and is open for some three or four miles. At Ladner's, Cohiluthan Slough enters and is somewhere in the neighbourhood of two miles in length.

Q. These two sloughs—one is above and the other below Delta?—A. Oh, both are in the Delta District—one above and one below—the people living along the banks use water from both. In these two sloughs the tide rises and falls and at Ladner's the water is very shallow, and in fact for quite a piece below. There is only a small channel about 100 yards wide or so at low water. There is a bar in the river and all the way up from Ladner's it is shallow water and in these sloughs the tide runs up. There is a cannery just at Cohiluthan Slough—they carry offal in in summer time and it lodges on the shores and gives off a frightful stench and which is considered a bad thing. It was always considered so in New Brunswick, and below Cohiluthan Slough the tide brings a lot of offal in and it lodges there, and in Canoe Pass there are many small sloughs.

Q. May I ask is this an island between Canoe Pass and Ladner's Landing? (scanning map)—A. No; that is the mainland—the slough is dammed now at Mr. Arthur's—when I first went there the water at times went through, and it is open at both ends—both at the east side and at the Fraser River side. As I said before, the current sets close to the bank from Ladner's down to Canoe Pass and the prevailing wind is from New Westminster in summer season, which sets drift of any kind towards the shore and a great deal of offal lodges there, and when you get to Canoe Pass—that is a shallow passage anyway—there is always water in it, but at places it is very shallow, and there are small sloughs or rough places where the offal lodges—for instance at Mr. H. Trim's—Mr. Trim said on Saturday there was a slough there which caused a great deal of this offal to lodge and which caused much sickness—there had been two cases of typhoid fever and two deaths in his family and he laid it to the offal. There are two canneries close to his place.

Q. Would Mr. Trim live about midway to Canoe Pass?—A. Near the shore—yes about midway. Now, as I said before the people all along the river have to use the river water and the offal makes it very unwholesome and unfit for use—it tastes very disagreeable.

Q. Are there no other means of getting water?—A. No; they use rain water at this season, but in summer season they are obliged to go to the river for water. Some miles back there is water, and they are now trying for artesian water.

Q. Then, this trying for water is caused by the river water being impure?—A. Well, I may say I have been on the river many years, and if there had been any sick-

ness formerly, I would have known of it ; but the sickness was some distance away, and on the whole shore I have never known of any cases of fever in other parts of the municipality.

Q. And the sickness is wholly on the shores of Westham Island, and along Cohiluthan Slough and by the Canoe Pass and portions of land adjoining the Fraser River?—A. Yes, sir. I suppose you are aware there are quite a large number of people there—the village of Ladner's Landing—and all are depending upon the water of the river.

Q. What is the population of the village of Ladner's Landing? About 200, I think we have heard?—A. Yes, about that.

Q. How is the village laid off?—A. In town lots ; the farmers live very close to the slough. Formerly there were no roads—all boating—and they live on both sides of the slough.

Q. And along the shores of the Fraser River and on both sides of Canoe Pass?—A. Yes, along Canoe Pass.

Q. Is the land level there?—A. Yes, pretty level—it is what we call marsh land in New Brunswick.

Q. Are there many persons living along Crescent Slough?—A. Yes ; it is well settled up all along there—good farms.

Q. Within the territory formed by Crescent Slough it is a sort of island that is there formed, is it not?—A. Yes, all along there.

Q. And how many years have you lived there, Mr. Benson?—A. Seventeen years—most of the time.

Q. And the locality where you live has not been troubled with fever—typhoid?—A. No, all the eastern end of the municipality has been as healthy as any other part of British Columbia, but in places where offal lodges along the shores, sickness has prevailed.

Q. Is this sickness of many year's standing, or is it of recent growth?—A. Well, it seems to be getting worse lately—the last year was the worst we have ever had.

Q. Is this all the time or in the spring, or when the fishing is over?—A. The sickness generally commences in August.

Q. That would be the time when offal would be lodging largely?—A. Yes, about that time.

Q. Well, offal that lodged the year previous—would it be wholly gone before the following year—that is, fish heads, tails, &c.,—would they remain?—A. Oh, no ; most would wash away, and then there is a sedimentary matter that covers this offal up—it settles largely into the land.

Q. And are you quite satisfied in your mind, so far as your knowledge goes, that the sickness which prevails there so largely is attributable to offal making a lodgment there?—A. Yes, I think so. I may say I have seen reports here that some men have called your attention to salmon that have died in the Fraser River after spawning, and have tried to make out that is worse than or as bad as the offal. Now, there is no fisherman on the Fraser River who has been up and down the river more than I have, and before the canneries were established I have been up and down the river very often. I was in the lumbering business before, and in the summer of 1883 furnished all the lumber for the bridges for the Canadian Pacific Railway, and was up the mountains and on the Harrison River, and on the spawning beds a good deal, and was also on the Columbia River years ago. Now, I don't think there are many salmon die in the river nor on the spawning beds. I don't think there is much difference between the flesh of the salmon on the Atlantic coasts and here. I think the salmon's nature is to return to the sea, but in British Columbia the rivers are so rugged and rough, you see fish with pieces knocked out of them and in all manners of shapes, wounded, etc., and what fish get into the Fraser River and die before they get to the spawning grounds are very few.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Are there not extensive spawning beds on the Fraser River?—A. Yes ; but I don't suppose the fish that die at Fort George have anything to do with the water in the Fraser River. The fish that die in the Canyon, etc., may, but if any man will go up and watch them there is a great deal of difference. Now, in Silver Creek, that is

comparatively speaking, for the first mile or two it does not run very fast, and there are some bars, &c., and it is a great place for salmon to spawn, and there are not near as many salmon die there as in other parts. You take the salmon where there are many rocks and boulders—they seem to have hard work to get up, and they wear themselves out and many die there in trying to get up.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. You think the habit of salmon is very similar to salmon in New Brunswick—you think each river will have its own family of salmon?—A. Yes; each stream has its own salmon—the Fraser has its own kind, but also every stream that enters into the Fraser will also have its own fish.

Q. You are acquainted with the St. John River?—the same thing takes place there?—A. Yes; the same thing takes place there.

Q. And the fish that go up farthest will become more protracted and exhausted?—A. Yes; and in those places that are more rocky and have more boulders, &c.

Q. And you think a greater amount of deaths will occur there and you think the greater prostration, etc., causes their death?—A. That is my opinion.

Q. And you are acquainted with the fact that the same thing occurs in the east?—A. Well, the rivers in the east cannot compare with these here in impediments for the salmon to get up.

Q. Then if there are a great many coming up do you think that more would die?—A. Oh, yes; certainly.

Q. And the few comparatively coming up in the eastern rivers makes it appear as if few die whereas here on account of the immense numbers passing up the river it would seem that a correspondingly large number died?—A. Yes.

Q. And you think the fish that die do not affect the water as much as offal?—A. Oh, no; the dead fish do not affect it as much.

Q. Have you seen many dead fish in this Cohiluthan Slough?—A. No; I have seen very few—they appear to have died in the Fraser River.

Q. They appear in better form than if they had died from rough usage?—A. Yes.

Q. How do you account for that—were they thrown away?—A. Well, I don't know—many have been thrown away in former years, but I don't think a great many are now.

Q. But these fish—you could tell by their appearance—would you think they were thrown away from the canneries or by fishermen?—A. Yes.

Q. You have been here many years and know the inhabitants—did the inhabitants before the cannery business being carried on drink water from the river?—A. Yes.

Q. And were there any unhealthy effects?—A. No.

Q. And you think the offal has caused it now?—A. Yes; and there are certain things that convince me in my opinion. Now Cohiluthan Slough is not as long as Crescent Slough and there has been three times the sickness there as on Crescent Slough, but there is a cannery right at the mouth of Cohiluthan Slough.

Q. Whose cannery is that?—A. The Delta cannery. Now there has been more sickness on that slough and around that slough than at any neighbourhood—there, and at Canoe Pass.

Q. And you attribute it to what cause?—A. To the offal from that cannery—if the sickness was general it would be different, but it is not. As I told you, over towards the bay and all the east end of the municipality has been as healthy as anywhere else.

Q. And you think the tide carries offal up the slough and it rests there and contaminates water in the neighbourhood—that is your opinion?—A. Yes.

Q. Now, since you have given information about the unhealthiness of offal and heads of fish, might I ask you this: You are acquainted thoroughly with the fish they call here the spring salmon or "quinnat"?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You have caught and seen great numbers of them?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you studied their habits, etc.?—A. To a certain degree; I have noticed them in the spawning beds and outside.

Q. Have you done the same thing on the St. John River?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What do you think of the great similarity in the shape and size? For instance, there is in the St. John River a salmon caught very much like them, and in the Shubenacadie River in Nova Scotia I have caught salmon very like sockeye, and then again on the Restigouche there is a larger salmon. Do you know the Restigouche salmon very well?—A. Not very well; I have seen many of them. I think there is not much difference in salmon in the east and here as some people think.

Q. Are you aware that even on the Atlantic coast the fish are a little different in colour and shape according to the river where they go?—A. Yes; the same thing is here.

Q. And you think Shubenacadie salmon very like sockeye?—A. It is very like sockeye.

Q. And the meat, is it the same?—A. Yes; I ate some three or four years ago, and I thought it much the same.

Q. What do you think about the humpback salmon, sir?—A. Well, they are different fish from others, yet of the salmon family. They are decidedly different, and an inferior fish. I have always thought, though, they were made for the Indian (laughter.)

Q. A very wise provision of nature I must say, if sockeyes are for canners and humpbacks for Indians. What do you think of cohoes?—A. Oh, the cohoes are very good salmon.

Q. And you are satisfied that a fair proportion of the salmon that go up to breed return to sea again?—A. Yes.

Q. An impression seems to prevail here, and has been handed down, that the salmon all die, but from the evidence we have received I think that idea has been disabused?—A. A great many of course die, but not all.

Q. Have you noted the spring salmon at the time of spawning?—A. Many of them—yes.

Q. Does the male have that peculiar hook on the jaw like Atlantic salmon? I am asking this for information, and because so many people contend they are quite different?—A. I think they have, but I have not handled any only to see. You see it is 26 years since I caught salmon in the St. John River.

Q. Yes; well, it is a well known fact that all male salmon have a projection on the jaw, and I have asked you so as to show that if so the fish here are virtually the same but changed by climatic effects. Have you any suggestions you would like to make to avert these effects you complain of?—A. Well, I don't know, except it (the offal) was made into oil or manure.

Q. And has anything in that direction been carried out in your neighbourhood?—A. There is a small factory started down near us, but I never went over to see it.

Q. Have the products been used from it?—A. Well, I don't know much about it.

Q. There is a good deal of oil used in the lumbering business; have you ever used the oil in skidding, &c.?—A. When I was lumbering there was none of this fish oil used; we used dog-fish oil.

Q. Is there much used in this country?—A. Yes.

Q. What is the usual price of the dog-fish oil that you use?—A. I used to pay about 35 cents for it.

Q. Do you know enough about dog-fish oil and oil made from offal, to say if it is as good?—A. I think the salmon oil ought to be as good, but I have never used it.

Q. About the fertilizer—have you used it?—A. I have not used it, but fish manure of any kind is very strong and ought to be good.

Q. Do you know anything of its value here?—A. No; I don't know.

Q. If a large factory were put up, do you think the products could be utilized?—A. Well, it would not perhaps at first, but I think it could be done when introduced.

Q. What say you in regard to the close season for fishing on the Fraser River? Men like you are supposed to speak pretty well the tone of those under you?—A. I think there should be a close season.

Q. And the Sunday—do you think it should be kept?—A. Yes, I think so—I think the whole of Sunday should be kept.

Q. For the reasons that it would not only have a moral tendency towards the people over whom you rule, but also would allow the fish to get up the river?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you ever taken notice of the hatchery and its effects on this river?—A. Not since it has been established. I have not been much on the river—I have been more around home and cannot give an opinion.

Q. Now, as an old resident, what are your views as to giving licenses on this river? Should they be given to every British subject and resident fishermen?—A. I think so, and for this reason—it has been very hard to regulate licenses on this river. A man may come here from Nova Scotia or Newfoundland with his family to start fishing and then be unable to procure a license. They should get licenses, and I think if every British subject got a license, it would regulate itself.

Q. If he got a license, should he be allowed to transfer it?—A. I think he should be the real owner, and I do not think it right to transfer licenses.

Q. Could you give us an opinion as to the average size of sockeye?—A. I think, about six pounds.

Q. Do they vary in size—some years over others?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And would that be the average size of weight, then?—A. I suppose it would be about the average size.

Q. Are you prepared to give an opinion as to whether canneries should get all the licenses they want to fish. Suppose a cannery wanted a hundred should they get them?—A. I don't think it.

Q. What are your views as to how to equalize this between canneries and fishermen?—A. I think ten licenses would fairly equalize matters.

Q. Do you mean by that, if a cannery got ten licenses he could always do a fair business with his own boats and could rely upon fishermen for the rest?—A. Yes, I think so.

Q. Do you think the number of canneries should be established on a fixed number, or should any man get licenses therefor that wished it?—A. I think any man who wished to put up a cannery should have the privilege of doing so, and he should at least get ten licenses—they should, however, run the canneries put up and not put them up to get licenses.

Q. *Bona fide* for carrying on work?—A. Yes, an actual place of business for carrying on the work intended.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Have you any rivers in the east, inhabited by salmon, that have a number of streams and lakes emptying into them, which would form the spawning grounds for salmon anything in like proportion to what the Fraser River has?—A. No, sir; for instance, the St. John River is perhaps the greatest river we have. There are many lakes, but the fish cannot get beyond the falls. The Fraser River has the greatest facilities of any river I know of, even greater than the Columbia River.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Have you any records of what took place on the St. John River 100 years ago?—A. Only what my folks have told me.

Q. What is it?—A. That salmon were very plentiful years ago.

Q. Have you not heard that the salmon were so thick 100 years ago that you could not cross the stream on account of it?—A. I have been told they were extremely numerous and plentiful.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Are there any salmon in the St. Lawrence?

Mr. WILMOT.—I may say that some years ago the whole of the St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario were teeming with salmon. In my lifetime, sir, I have known the salmon so plentiful in the streams running into Lake Ontario, that on my own farm near Newcastle, Ont., I have known the pigs to go down to the stream and catch them and eat them, they were so plentiful.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Yes; well, I have heard from a friend of mine that in the place where he came from the hogs used to go down and catch the fish without wetting their eyebrows. (Laughter.)

Mr. WILMOT.—You think that a fish story, eh? Oh, yes; we had plenty of salmon, but there are none there now.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, Mr. Benson, I think we have gone over the ground pretty well with you. Is there anything further you would wish to state?—A. No, nothing further. I have told you, I think, all I wish to say.

It being 12.30 p.m. o'clock, the Chairman declared the Commission adjourned, to meet again at the same place at 1.30 p.m.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., 1st March, 1882.

Afternoon Session.

The Commission was convened at the Court-house at 1.30 p.m.

Present:—Mr. Chairman Wilmot, Mr. Sheriff Armstrong, and Mr. Secretary Winter.

JOHN KIRKLAND, of Ladner's Landing, a native of England, living in British Columbia for some 20 years, having moved there from Ontario, a farmer, and one of the Delegates to the Commission from the Municipality of Delta, was duly sworn

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, sir ; anything you would like to communicate to the Commission we will be very glad to hear.—A. As to my knowledge of fish I might tell you something, but I wish to speak in regard to what I have seen as a resident at Cohiluthan Slough and the Delta. Ever since the canneries have been established on the river, we who reside on the Slough have been put to very great inconvenience by the offal which with the tide ebbs and flows up the slough. The water from the slough we have had to use for culinary purposes, and I have frequently in going to the slough for water have had to stir the water for some little distance to get away the oily substances and it was sometimes impossible to dip up water without getting some entrails of fish. I may say prior to the establishment of canneries we were free from typhoid entirely as far as my memory serves. It was not long after the establishment of the canneries before the typhoid came amongst us. One of my own family was amongst them—he didn't die but was taken down with typhoid. Last year though has been the worst we have experienced and during '91 some deaths have occurred there. The water in flowing up the slough flows up for about one and a half miles and then the flood-gate prevents it from going any further and it recedes more slowly from the upper end than from the lower end and often the whole bodies of the fish and entrails will be caught on brush at the sides of the slough and be retained there and create a bad stench.

Q. Offensive to the smell as well?—A. Oh yes ; offensive to the smell and injurious to the general health of people living there.

Q. And that appears to be the unanimous opinion there?—A. Yes, the unanimous opinion—our petition would indicate that. It is the general opinion of parties living along there that it is detrimental to the general health.

Q. You are not living there now?—A. No, not exactly, but I am there all along—my family is in Victoria.

Q. And was it on account of this illness you moved your family away?—A. Oh, no ; my wife's illness was such I was obliged to take her away for the benefit of her health.

Q. Were there any cases of other diseases, dysentery, &c.?—A. Usually we are not troubled with such but there were some cases last summer.

Q. Was it assigned to the cause of using foul water in the neighbourhood, stench, etc.?—A. That was the impression settlers had.

Q. Then upon the whole you are satisfied that the casting in of offal in such quantities that make lodgments along the slough are prejudicial in every way to health?—A. I am satisfied as to that.

Q. Has it prevented immigration and settlement there that otherwise may have taken place?—A. Well, we had so many cases last summer that it is beginning to tell and I think it would be injurious in more ways than one.

Q. Is there any evidence of families leaving on account of it?—A. No, I cannot say any ever left on account of it.

Q. Has it any effect on the disposal and value of land there?—A. Well, that is what I mean by saying injurious in more ways than one—there have been no sales taking place there lately, but I cannot express any definite opinion on that.

Q. All along the slough where the inhabitants live—is it far up from the edge of the slough?—A. No, when first settled the people built close to the water for purposes of getting to the water.

Q. Then the water was very convenient there was it?—A. Yes, we had tanks to keep water and then it was convenient to go with scows, &c.

Q. And that convenience as far as water is concerned has been very materially effected by the cause you have assigned?—A. Oh, yes; we do not use the water any more than we can help now.

Q. Have you ever noticed the effects of this water upon cows—upon the milk at all?—A. I cannot say that it has.

Q. We have had it stated that it affected the milk and that hogs are affected by it?—A. We do not allow our pigs to run down to the slough.

Q. Do you know that pigs will be affected by the matter they eat? Have you ever had pigs that fed on beech nuts?—A. Yes, it makes the meat soft and if pigs eat fish it will destroy the marketable value of the pork.

Q. The reason I ask about the cows is because it is well known by medical men and others that milk is often a means of carrying disease?—A. I may say, as far as I am individually concerned, we do not keep a dairy at all—we merely milk cows for our own use—but if I kept a large number of cows my attention would probably be drawn to it more fully.

Q. Have you thought of any means of getting rid of this offal by manufacturing it?—A. I have not given it much attention myself—there is a small establishment near by where they manufactured fertilizers and oil from this offal. I think it would be a good thing if it could be manufactured.

Q. It is an experimental thing—that is as yet?—A. Yes,—I think if it was manufactured to any extent they would probably be obliged to seek a foreign market—the land here hardly needs it.

Q. But it would be a good fertilizer would it not?—A. Oh, I think so—Mr. Spratt, of Victoria, I think received a medal from one of the exhibitions for his product from fish offal, etc. He made it at Vancouver.

Q. Where the herring was pressed?—A. Yes: of course a similar quality would be made I should think from the offal of the salmon.

Q. I notice that some of the authorities of Ontario have been experimenting on this same offal and are quite of the opinion that it could be made quite a very useful fertilizer?—A. It seems to me that failing to utilize it for fertilizer purposes, it would be better to cremate it rather than dump it in the sea.

Q. That is as showing that it was injudicious to put in the water?—A. Yes, it pollutes the air and is a very nasty thing to have cast upon the shore anywhere.

Q. Has an attempt been made at cremation here at all?—A. Not that I am aware of.

Q. It is the first time that we have heard of the cremation of the offal and it strikes me as a very feasible way of getting rid of it.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Have you any idea of a case or way of doing this?—A. No: but the sawmills here, they burn up the sawdust and refuse. I think the heads, etc., would help in purpose of cremation.

Q. Do you think the close season in taking in the whole Sabbath a judicious plea for upholding morality and religious views as well as letting the fish pass up?—A. Oh certainly, yes.

Q. Have you formed any opinion of the effects of artificial breeding of fish on this river?—A. No sir, I have not thought much about that.

Q. Should every individual British subject and resident get a license?—A. I have never given the subject any particular consideration—I should think though, were I a fisherman and had brought my family here, that it was a great hardship if I could not get licenses.

Q. And would you apply that same view to a man who came here and put up a cannery—should he get a fair proportion of boats?—A. Oh yes, if not, it would be a monopoly.

Q. And you think there should be no monopoly but an equalization as much as possible?—A. Yes.

Q. Would whole fish come in the slough—would they be partly decomposed or whole fish?—A. I have seen whole fish come in but not so much as some years ago.

Q. Regarding the fish that die far up the river have you any knowledge as to whether fish dying in such numbers would affect this slough of yours?—A. Well, I think not, because before the canneries were established it was uncommon to see them in the slough at all.

Q. But since the construction of the canneries you have seen whole fish as well as offal?—A. I have seen them, but not so much of late years.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, Mr. Kirkland, I don't know as we have any more to ask you—your object is mainly to petition against the continuance of offal being thrown in the river.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. The present close season from 6 o'clock Saturday morning to 6 o'clock Sunday evening—now do you think that should be changed?—A. Well, I never really gave much consideration to that subject.

Q. Well, this is a matter seriously effecting the canneries. The cannerymen claim that unless they are allowed to fish on Sunday night they would have scarcely any fish to work with on Monday morning, and so would have their employees idle and would lose much time. We would like to have your opinion as to what people think generally?—A. Well, it is hard to make a cast-iron rule—speaking generally I think the Sabbath should be observed as much as possible.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Then you think the whole Sabbath should be kept if possible?—A. Yes, I think so; I should like to see it if possible.

Q. Have you anything further to ask, Mr. Armstrong?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—No, nothing more.

Mr. WILMOT (to witness).—Thank you, sir; that is all.

W. H. LADNER, a delegate *re* offal nuisance from the municipality of Delta, a native of England, resident of Ladner's Landing, B.C., since June, 1868, and living in British Columbia since May, 1858, a farmer, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, Mr. Ladner, if you have any suggestions to make upon this question, upon which you have been sent here as a delegate, or any other matter, we will be glad to hear you.—A. Well, I may mention, as regards the offal question, I have been as great a sufferer as any other in the country. I lived there for years before there was a cannery, and we considered we were living in as healthy a place as anywhere. Then we had no sickness to speak of, but since the canneries were established it has been increasing. I have read evidence given here as to depositing offal in deep water, but it will not do to put it in the water, because the tide ebbs and flows and the matter will

be brought back. The tide ebbs and flows twice in twenty-four hours ; if the offal could be kept in deep water, I don't think it would affect us very much, but its floatability is such that it must rise to the surface sometimes ; and then there is so much scum rising from it.

Q. Then, do you think the deposition of offal as at present practiced is injurious to the health of your neighbourhood ?—A. I most certainly think so.

Q. Well, then if thrown in deep water—it would sink ? Well, suppose it did sink, and all the canneries threw it in the river, would it cleanse the water down at your section ?—A. A great deal of it would even then come in—not as much as if in the immediate neighbourhood, but some would come.

Q. And throwing it out affects your neighbourhood seriously ?—A. It does.

Q. What diseases ?—A. Typhoid fever, particularly.

Q. And is this fault just at one slough, or are persons living farther away affected as much as persons living along the slough ?—A. I have not heard of a single case of typhoid fever except along Canoe Pass, Cohiluthan Slough, and what we call Woodward Slough.

Q. And how about Crescent Slough ?—A. I have not heard of any complaints from that one ; I live a mile and a half from it, but have not heard of any complaints from there.

Q. Then do I understand you that unhealthiness prevails from this offal, and it is unwholesome and injurious to have it put in the water ?—A. I do think so. Now, we are differently situated to almost any other place in the country. I have tried to drive an Abyssinian pipe down there to get water, but I was not successful ; we have had to take the river water.

Q. What effect have you noticed on your stock ?—A. Well, we only keep just enough for the house, but if we had good water I think we would have gone into dairy work, but those who have gone into it have given it up.

Q. What kind of ground have you there ?—A. It is all alluvial deposits entirely.

Q. Do you think this offal could be made into oil or fertilizer ?—A. I have seen some barrels of oil, and also some of the dry stuff, and I have thought it quite equal to the foreign guano we used to get in the old country.

Q. And you think fertilizer manufactured at this factory quite equal to fertilizer you have seen in England ?—A. Yes, I do ; and you have spoken of cremating it—now, do you not think it would be unwise to burn up all that valuable matter when good fertilizer could be made for use in this country ?

Q. Yes ; but the law says it must not be thrown into the river, and it is for the canneries themselves to say how they will best dispose of it ; it is for this Commission to find out if the throwing in is prejudicial or otherwise.—A. I think Mr. Commissioner Armstrong, sir, might give you some information as to what his opinion is, by and by, because he has been visiting my house during the fishing season, and his evidence would be more valuable than mine as to the effects of throwing in this offal into the river.

Q. I am afraid we would not have a quorum if he left his place at the board.—A. What I meant to say was that at some future time he would be able to give you valuable information on this question.

Q. Have you ever considered the question of close season ? Whether fishing on Sunday is a judicious movement or not ?—A. Well, I think it is the general opinion that a certain time in the week should be observed as a close season.

Q. For what purpose ?—A. Well, in both the cause of morality as well as the interests of fishing and those engaged in it.

Q. Then from your long residence here, experience, etc., and the difficulties that have arisen here lately between the canners and fishermen—what are your views as to an equitable adjustment of the licenses ? Would it be right for every British subject and fisherman to get licenses ?—A. Yes ; I think every fisherman who can equip himself and is a resident British subject, should get a license.

Q. And as between the canners, should they get licenses too ?—A. Most certainly, sir.

Q. Then as between the cannery and the fishermen—what would be an equitable arrangement as between them?—A. I would not like to express an opinion on that.

Q. Do you know how many boats are required to run a cannery?—A. No; it is not in my line of business—I do not know except from hearsay.

Q. Have you ever noticed many dead fish floating down the river or coming into this slough?—A. A few, sir.

Q. Would they be fish that died far up—up as far as Harrison River or above?—A. Well, I think they are spent fish—they have spawned and are making their way to sea again.

Q. Those would be living fish—I mean dead ones?—A. I have seen a few, sir.

Q. Then about the fish that go up—do they all die?—A. Well, I could not say—I have not given that subject much consideration—I have seen many coming down. I would ask whether the Commission has power to take into consideration the pollution of rivers.

Q. Why, are we thus far and our object not known? As I said before, the Government has thought proper to appoint this Commission to investigate the question of throwing offal into this river?—A. Does that refer only to fish offal?

Q. No; everything relating to the fisheries in British Columbia.—A. Well, then, in the case of sewage being thrown into the river, what action would the Government take?

Q. Well, I would think if it was brought before this Commission we would be bound to take it up—the river is, I suppose, affected by this sewage—also the fisheries.—A. Yes: I happened to notice the other day when I was in Victoria, they were digging a sewer near the Hudson Bay stores, and that sewer could have been taken in two rods into the harbour of Victoria whereas they were taking it out some two or three miles, so there must be some reason for not running that into the Bay and instead taking it away out.

Q. Then you mean that there must be some reason for not letting it go into the harbour on account of it fouling the waters, etc.?—A. Yes, sir; I don't think perhaps that it is a matter of very great importance, but we may not have a man here again for some years, and I have thought it might be a matter for consideration.

Q. Yes, sir; the matter has been taken down, and I have no doubt it will receive the consideration of the Commission.

CHARLES F. GREEN, a native of England, a resident of Ladner's Landing and living in British Columbia since 1862, a farmer, and Fishery Guardian for the District of the Lower Fraser during the summer season, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilnot:

Q. Well, Mr. Green, what may you have to say upon the fisheries question?—A. Do you wish my views as guardian or as a private individual.

Q. As a private individual, but if you have anything as guardian you may put it in besides.—A. Well, of course the way I got mixed up with the offal business is through reports—reporting it to the Inspector at his request. In 1887 there was a disturbance made about the offal, and I was asked by Mr. Mowat to report—it is in the Blue-book for 1887.

Q. As concisely as possible what were your views then?—A. That it was detrimental to fish, and to try to establish an oil factory, the credit for which I take some to myself.

Q. You have heard the evidence of the three delegates—do you corroborate that evidence?—A. Yes, sir; the Delta cannery being immediately on a corner of the slough, when the tide comes in the offal must come up the slough—it cannot go anywhere else. An oil factory was started and I tried to help the man all I could, so much so that I sent samples to Ottawa and had it analyzed—this is his reply (handing document to chairman)—I sent as good a sample, about 5 pounds, as I could get a hold of.

Mr. Wilmot then read from the document handed him as follows :—

LABORATORY OF THE DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL FARMS,

OTTAWA, 5th Sept., 1889.

C. F. GREEN, Esq.,

Ladner's Landing, B. C.

DEAR SIR,—I now take pleasure in sending you my report on the fish waste or refuse from the salmon canning factory forwarded by you for examination in June last. Chemical analysis affords the following data :—

Water.....	5.19
Organic matter.....	46.99
Ash or Mineral matter.....	47.82
	<hr/>
	100.00
Nitrogen in organic matter.....	3.47
Mineral matter soluble in water.....	1.14
do do dilute acid.....	40.98
do insoluble in acid (clay and sand).....	5.70
	<hr/>
	47.82
	<hr/>
Potash.....	.69
	<hr/>
Phosphorid Acid, soluble.....	.12
do reverted.....	9.29
do insoluble.....	8.19
	<hr/>
Total Phosphoric Acid.....	17.60
	<hr/>

Valuation per 2,000 lbs. :

Soluble Phosphoric Acid ($7\frac{1}{2}$ cts.).....	\$ 1 80
Reverted do (7 cts.).....	13 00
Insoluble do (5 cts.).....	8 19
Nitrogen (15 cts.).....	10 41
Potash (5 cts.).....	76
	<hr/>
	\$34 16
	<hr/>

"This is evidently a very valuable fertilizer and one of special value as a manure for wheat and other grain crops, or for application to soils poor in Phosphoric Acid and Nitrogen. The 'Reverted' Phosphoric Acid, though not immediately assimilable by plants, is more or less easily rendered so in the soil, hence its value is but little below that of the 'Soluble' form. The notable quantity of Nitrogen this fish refuse contains makes this fertilizer one of general application—the Nitrogen being in a form very valuable as plant food."

I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Sgd.)

FRANK T. SHUTT, M.A., F.I.C.,
Chemist, Dominion Experimental Farms.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Have you anything to do with the present oil factory?—A. I never had anything to do in a money way but I took great interest in it.

Q. Have you any experience in the use of the fertilizer made from this offal?—A. I have watched experiments.

Q. Well, what was the result?—A. It is very strong—it will burn through a piece of paper unless diluted.

Q. Well, but do you use it in a dry or raw state?—A. Well, the trouble with this man is, he cannot dry it properly—he has no kiln. I have asked him how many fish it takes to make these products and it takes 1,800 sockeye offal to make a forty gallon keg of oil, and then as to the fertilizer—he took the offal from four canneries all season, from the proceeds of that to make 3,500 gallons of oil, and the manure from the same is equal to thirty-five tons. This is his own statement to me. The oil factory is at present I am sorry to say a failure—he cannot get rid of his oil. I have sent samples to all the logging camps in the country and acted as sort of agent for him, but they will not have it at all—it has not body enough. It will not grease the skids except for once or so—they use the dog-fish oil mixed with other matter. They say the dog-fish oil is better than this offal oil, and at present the oil factory is comparatively a failure. And I may say that it is just opposite my house and I get the full benefit of it—the smell is frightful—a skunk is almost *eau-de-cologne* to it.

Q. It does duty in giving aroma instead of strength I expect?—A. It is a frightful place—I could not stand it.

Q. But, from what you know do you think an oil factory established on the best possible principles as now known, that it could be made to pay?—A. Well, you see there is so much common oils, and if they say this oil is too thin, why I don't see how it could do.

Q. How is oil from dog-fish made?—A. They simply take the liver from them and it makes a thicker oil that has more strength than this oil.

Q. Are dog-fish so numerous they take only the livers from them to make oil?—A. Well, it is generally made in small quantities.

Q. What are the size of these dog fish?—A. Oh, about as big as spring salmon. This man at the oil factory used to work on the Columbia River and he tells me that there it takes only ten heads of spring salmon to make a gallon of oil—they only use the heads there—and after the 10th of June it would require at least one-third more to make the same quantity—but I believe they have given it up there as they found it would not pay either.

Q. Then do you consider it judicious that offal should be thrown into the river?—A. No, I don't; I think there are some canneries on the river where it does not hurt, but at others I think it does.

Q. Well, take the question on its general merits—is it injurious to fish and health?—A. Well, I would certainly say that around Ladner's Landing it is injurious; personally, I may say I am not affected at all, as I am out of reach of it, but I get all the benefit of the oil factory. I am sorry to see this industry does not pay, as I have taken much interest in it.

Q. Well, but many industries do not pay at first; I suppose his operations are just experimental yet?—A. Well, he has been at it 3 or 4 years I think.

Q. What do you think of the Sunday close time?—A. Well, if the close time is altered from being other than at present, the canneries would have to work just the same; if altered from Saturday morning the canneries would have to put up fish on Sunday.

Q. Well, if the close time were made from 6 o'clock Saturday morning to 12 o'clock Sunday night?—A. Well, that would be the worst of all from a guardian's point of view. No man living could look after these outside fishermen.

Q. But you must leave aside the guardian's view; do you think it advisable for all concerned that all of Sunday should be kept?—A. Well, that would concern me too, and if I remain an officer there I would certainly not want to see the close time extended to 12 o'clock Sunday night.

Q. Oh, throw yourself aside; do you think it advisable that the whole Sabbath should be kept or only half of it?—A. From work in canneries or from fishing?

Q. Any way you like to put it, sir?—A. Well, if you give me the other end of it I may get at what you want.

Q. Well, it is at present from 6 o'clock Saturday morning to 6 o'clock Sunday evening; now, if put at 12 o'clock Sunday night would it not be for the best interests of the fishing industry?—A. Well, that is very hard for me to answer, because I know so much about it.

Q. Well, all the more reason why you should answer it?—(Laughter)—A. Well, I know how the morality point is looked at under the present 6 o'clock system, and I know what it would be like if the 12 o'clock were made.

Q. Have you never met men who would not fish on Sunday?—A. Only four of them, sir; they came from Newfoundland; they are the only ones I ever met on the Fraser River. I say, keep Sunday as far as going to church, etc., but I know I have to work most all of Sunday anyway.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. You think it should not be changed, then?—A. No; I think the present time quite right.

Q. But how about making it to 6 o'clock Monday morning?—A. No; that would be too long a close season; I prefer to keep it as it is now.

By Mr. Wilnot:

Q. Who should obtain licenses—every British subject and actual fisherman?—A. Yes; my opinion is just something like this—that the canneries should have a certain amount, and then if the river is thrown open I think the matter would regulate itself.

Q. And what number would you give canneries?—A. Well, about the same as now.

Q. Then, with 20 licenses for the canneries that will be in existence this year—that would be 500 licenses?—A. Well, I would throw open the whole river to the fishermen; the matter would regulate itself—it would be a case of "the survival of the fittest."

Q. But which would it be, the canners or the fishermen?—A. Well, nearly all the canneries employ a certain number of outside boats now—the matter would regulate itself.

Q. Is there anything else, sir, you wish to say?—A. Well, I have heard many state about the average of the sockeye. I have weighed some and find the average weight about 7 pounds and that I think would make about 4 or 5 cans. From a large pile of sockeye I picked one that weighed 7 pounds out of thousands and after cleaning it weighed only $4\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, and the same style of fish that was there took $11\frac{1}{4}$ to the case—of course they do not all run alike—some run 9 to the case—I found $11\frac{1}{4}$ —sometimes as high as 13—in some years the fish are larger and it goes 9 to the case—perhaps this year they will go about 9—they are always larger in a poor season.

Q. Have you been up the Harrison River?—A. Not as a Guardian.

Q. What about fish dying—do all die?—A. Well, that I think is practically unknown.

Q. Have you ever seen fish coming down in a dying condition, etc.?—Well, last year I took a boat out and tried with a net to see if there were any fish in the river and I did not get a sockeye at all—there were a few cohoes but no sockeyes.

Q. When the sockeyes are coming in plentifully have you ever seen them on the surface of the water?—A. Well, I have seen a few; on the moonlight nights you will see them just on top of the water.

Q. Might there not be thousands of fish down in the water going back?—A. Oh, there might be, but as I said I tried it this time and could not get any—I would rather not give an opinion as I really don't know.

Q. What do you think of the hatchery?—A. I think it a perfect success as far as it goes.

Q. As far as it goes greater than the oil factory?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. How many miles are you supposed to guard?—A. About 20 miles.

Q. What have you to do it with?—A. Nothing but a boat.

Q. And nobody but yourself?—A. Nobody—and if I hire help I have to pay him myself.

Q. And do you think one man can protect that stretch of river?—A. Oh, no; not at all—I have had men turn round and fish after I have passed them.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Then the guardianship is no use?—A. Oh, no; I would not say that.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Are there many violations of the law down there?—A. Yes, they go away out and fish, but what can I do with a little boat—it is very hard work and I have been 7 hours getting from the mouth of the river back home.

Q. Do you think the river could be well guarded if you had an assistant?—A. Of course, it would always help—I can go down the river but the trouble is to get back.

Q. Well, what do you think necessary to properly guard the river?—A. A small steam launch—just a little thing that you could get around to the canneries and see that all was right—especially if the offal law is to be enforced.

ADOLPHUS PEEL, a native of England, a resident of New Westminster, and of British Columbia since 1863, and describing himself as a chemist and druggist, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Have you anything to state to this Commission, sir?—A. Only what little observation I have seen of these fish in studying them during the last 15 years.

Q. What is your opinion as regards offal?—A. Well, if put in deep water I do not think there is any deleterious effect.

Q. If put in shallow water or it lodges along the edges of the water, what then?—A. It would be very deleterious—it would destroy your appetite for one thing.

Q. And you think it injurious to health?—A. Most certainly, sir.

Q. In your capacity as a chemist do you know of any sickness at Delta or anywhere else?—A. Well, that is a moot question—it has not been settled.

Q. Then you are not prepared to give any opinion upon that?—A. Well, my opinion is that typhoid fever does not come from that at all—it is a malarial fever and comes from the flats they live on down there—then fevers come from decayed vegetable matter.

Q. What decayed vegetable matter, do you think, is there?—A. Well, there is swamp gas.

Q. What do you think of the effects of saw-dust upon fish?—A. I think it gills every fish it comes in contact with.

Q. What do you think of the limitation of nets—whether the inhabitants generally who are British subjects and resident fishermen—should they have licenses to fish?—A. I think every one is entitled to licenses—they should be as free as air.

Q. Should they be transferable?—A. No, they should not be transferable.

Q. What do you think of canners—should they be restricted?—A. They should to a certain extent—you should strike a balance—they should not be at the mercy of the fishermen who would withhold the fish.

Q. And how many licenses should they get?—A. Well, that depends upon the capacity of the cannery—if a man puts in more capital he should have opportunities to catch the fish.

Q. Are not all canneries of about the same capacity?—A. No, I think not—I think many put up more than others—then there is a great deal in the management of a cannery too. I have heard also that you don't get any sockeyes in the Fraser River before the temperature is 55 or 56.

Q. And do you think, if it did not get to that, they would not come here at all?—A. It must be an even temperature.

Q. How about the fish away up in the mountains?—A. Well, the fish there come in at a different time—they come in earlier.

Q. And if the water there was of a different temperature would he go back?—A. He would play about until the water reached the proper temperature and then would go on.

Q. What is your idea in regard to the hatchery?—A. I think the hatchery is but a small matter. If I have 500 children and take care of them I will have more out of them than if I let them run in the gutter.

Q. Then you think the fostering care of the Government is beneficial?—A. Certainly, sir.

Q. What do you think of the Sunday close season?—A. I think it good—I would take the whole Sunday. I would make it end on Monday morning because the fish that come in would get a chance of getting out of the fishing grounds entirely—take one day and you may catch them before they get away.

Q. Do you think all fish die that come in the river?—A. I think ninety per cent do, because as far as I know the fish coming in to spawn develop death—they change their colour—they lose their tails—they lose their fins—they get hook bills and we have no information that these fish can grow new tails, nor new fins, from new hooks, etc., and when we catch fish next year they have new tails and fins, etc.

Q. Then you think that all fish that don't lose their heads, tails, etc., go to the sea?—A. My opinion is that fish cannot swim down this river because of the quantity of silt in it. There is eighty grains of silt to every 1,000 grains of water in this river and when a fish comes down he has got to go like lightning, and then to turn up again he has not strength to do it.

Q. But when he goes up what does he do with the silt?—A. Oh, he has strength then. I have seen fish coming down—they may get to the sea, but we do not know enough about them. I think fish that spawn very near to the sea may get back—then some do not go within Pitt Lake at all—you will catch them in the back end—barren sockeye I call them.

Q. Well, doctors differ and patients die?—A. Well, but we have to hear the difference yet—then I have seen fish die—then as the offal question, I do not think it is so injurious.

Q. Do you know that a petition was made by this city against it?—A. Well, I know there is an ordinance against putting refuse into the river, but if the people along these sloughs had sense they would boil the water before drinking it. The Chinamen never have typhoid fever and work eight hour shifts. Why don't they get typhoid? They work along and drink Fraser River water, but they boil it before drinking it—these people along the sloughs should do the same thing.

MR. PETER BIRRELL, a salmon canner, who had previously given evidence, was recalled on the desire of the Chairman to elicit evidence touching the reported objections made by the city of New Westminster, against the presence of Salmon Canning Establishments within its limits, and the deposit of offal in the river, etc., and was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Were there any canneries built in the town or in front of the town since you have been here?—A. Oh yes, there were two of them—Mr. Ewen had a cannery within the town and Findlay & Lane had one in 1877.

Q. On a smaller scale than now a days?—A. Oh no, they were both large canneries—of course they were not capable of putting up so much fish as now.

Q. Well, was there any difficulty arose between the municipality at New Westminster and Mr. Ewen and Laidlaw regarding the offal being thrown in the river?—A. Oh no, I think not—when these canneries were established here it was thought very desirable for the amount of money they would spend here—I have asked if there was any trouble but have been told that there was none whatever. The municipality of New Westminster gave special inducements to establish these canneries here.

Q. Did you ever hear or know of any case in which either Mr. Ewen or Mr. Laidlaw were fined for impropriety in connection with their canneries in throwing in offal?

A. I have never heard of it; I don't think there was ever such a case as that.

Q. Not within your knowledge?—A. No, not within my knowledge.

Q. There might be and you not know it?—A. There might be, but being a canneryman I would have heard of it. There might have been complaints against these local men—I mean Mr. Herring, who used to salt fish, and Frank Gee; they used to throw offal in the river, and it got stranded and became very offensive to the city.

Q. Have you any recollection of Mr. Herring being fined?—A. No, I have not. There were complaints made against him.

Q. And you have recollections of complaints against cannerymen, but no convictions?—A. No; I believe there were complaints by individuals, but I think Mr. Ewen withdrew because the property was getting more valuable—the railway coming here, and so on—and he thought he would move away where he had more freedom, etc.

Mr. WILMOT.—Thank you; that is all; it had been said that some of the cannerymen had been fined for throwing offal in the river.

HUGH W. GOSSETT, a native of the United States, now a naturalized British subject, resident in British Columbia since 1868, living five miles down the South Arm, New Westminster District, describing himself as a farmer and stock raiser, etc., was duly sworn.

Mr. GOSSETT.—Well, it seems to me very improper that such men as “Dutch Bill” and W. B. Port, and some others, should have a monopoly of the licenses; I should like to see them deprived of licenses and let the boys around town get a license, because you see they have not the courage to go into an office and ask for one.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. What do you mean by “boys around town”?—A. Well, half-breeds and “boys” that are growing up here; and you know it requires a certain amount of courage to go in and ask for a license—they have not the business capacity, I might say, to look after the license.

Q. Why should Mr. Vienna and Mr. Port be refused licenses?—A. Well, they have their business—Mr. Vienna buys and sells fish and has his grocery store, and he is not entitled to license, I think, because he does not go into a boat and fish, but merely holds his boats in abeyance until the sockeye run, and then he takes them and sells them to the cannerymen. He has a great monopoly in this way with his licenses.

Q. Do these men ship and freeze fish and send them away?—A. I think they do in the spring:

Q. You think they should have licenses then to fish?—A. I think they should have.

Q. And cannerymen?—A. They should have licenses to enable them to fish.

Q. Why?—A. Because they have their capital invested in the business.

Q. Have not the freezers?—A. Well, not in the same way.

Q. Then these boys about town—should they get licenses as long as they are British subjects and residents?—A. Well, yes; they must commence some time, you know; they cannot get licenses because they have not fished before, which has been the rule heretofore; I rather think he should be a British subject, but that is a matter I never paid much attention to.

Q. You are a British subject?—A. Yes, sir; I am a farmer, living on the muddy bank of the river, and keeping cattle and horses.

Q. What is your view as to the large amount of offal thrown into the river—does it affect your cattle or anything else?—A. Well, not appreciably; I suppose if a mosquito were thrown in here it would affect the water some, but as now I don't think it hurts me any; there are only two cannerymen above me.

Q. But if there were several cannerymen, would there not be an appreciable difference?—A. Yes, it could be measured then.

Q. Then you think freezers should not get licenses, but the boys about town should get them instead?—A. Yes, that is what I wished to say; there is nothing else that I know of.

Mr. WILMOT.—Thank you, sir, then, that will do.

ROBERT HARPER, a native of England, living in British Columbia for five years, a resident of Lulu Island, and a fisherman, was duly sworn.

Mr. HARPER.—I live at Lulu Island, down at the mouth of the river; I have been there four years now, and I think there are too many licenses on the river.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Do you know how many there are?—A. Something over 700 I think.

Q. And you think that too excessive fishing for this river?—A. Yes, sir; there is one thing now—we cannot keep sufficient distance apart from one another—we are all within 50 yards of one another.

Q. What number do you think sufficient if 700 is too many?—A. I think 500 to keep it in good fishing order—I think the river can be fished out.

Q. You think so?—A. Oh, yes; I think we have sufficient proof of that. The Columbia River has been almost fished out. I know because some years ago where oysters were fished out in the old country, now you cannot get any native English oysters—they are all Dutch laid.

Q. And you think over-fishing can be done on this river?—A. Yes; I think so.

Q. And 500 licenses would be enough?—A. Yes; and thus make it a permanent thing on the river.

Q. And who would you give these licenses to?—A. I would divide them—give half to canners and half to fishermen.

Q. And British subjects?—A. Yes; but I would not object to a foreigner as long as he could speak English and be here long enough—many of them cannot speak English now.

Q. Would you give a license to a Chinaman?—A. No, sir; he is not a British subject.

Q. And then you think a resident and British subject should get licenses?—A. Yes.

Q. Well, suppose you had 50 Chinamen living here—would not they be entitled to them as much as other residents?—A. Most certainly not—they don't help the country, and most of them cannot speak English. I would not stick at a foreigner if they were here long enough—now for instance there are Swedes here who are good fishermen and good subjects; I would give them to them, for instance; but I would not to people coming here just to get a license; many men come here who have not seen a license before. And I think there should be a difference in the price of those licenses; I think canners and others who do not fish their licenses themselves should pay more than a fisherman who fishes it himself, because they don't fish until the sockeye come as a rule, but as soon as they come plentifully they get two men and send them away—as soon as they come in they put in two more men, and they fish all along the same license. Now, I cannot work the whole 24 hours.

Q. And then you think the canner gets double out of his license because he puts in 4 men?—A. Certainly they get double value—then if I snag my net I have to lose half a day to mend it, whereas the cannerymen have a net man, and as soon as they come in they put him to mend it.

Q. Then the value of the license is more to the canner than to a fisherman?—A. Yes; certainly.

Q. And a canner should pay double—if you pay \$20 they should pay \$40?—A. I don't say exactly double, but it should be more.

Q. What do you think about this quantity of offal that is thrown into the river?—A. I think it is a great disgrace to the country and very injurious to health, too. Now, where I live there is nothing but the water you get from the river unless it is rain-water, and in the summer we do not get much of that. There is nothing but the river water to drink—I don't know the population, but in the summer there are many

more than in the winter, for then the Siwash and Japs come, and I suppose there would be 2,000 or 3,000. And then to drink of the water in the summer lays many people up—I have been laid up several times.

Q. What is the complaint?—A. Well, it is a kind of fever—a sort of bilious stomach trouble.

Q. And you attribute this to the offal?—A. Well, yes; I think so—you go along the river when the canning is going on—it is more like a cess-pool; the offal lies there and rots and then at the close of the fishing season you are eaten up by flies; they breed from it, I think.

Q. Do you believe that offal can be all eaten up then at the factories where it is thrown out?—A. Oh, no; not nearly all of it—you can catch it in your net several miles out—I have caught offal in my net out half-way between the lighthouse and Garry Bush and plenty more too have done this than me.

Q. What effect has this on the nets?—A. Well, a smut rots the net. If fish are running you can use a net up in a part of the season, but if less fish are running you will sometimes use a net for the cohoes also.

Q. Is it usual for fishermen to get new nets every season?—A. We have two nets, sir—one for spring salmon and one for sockeye, but most people here are not genuine fishermen—they simply get a license and go in for the sockeye. Now, with ten boats any cannery can be run easily. To give these canneries twenty boats each—it is simply wiping off the fishermen altogether.

Q. Then, if twenty licenses each are given to canners, it is tantamount to running fishermen off the river?—A. Yes, sir; even now, when you sell to the canneries, they will give you a limit—they will not take all the fish from you.

Q. Do you not think canneries should have some limited number of licenses?—A. Yes, I do; because if you don't give them a number, the fishermen will run the price of fish up to more than the canners can pay.

Q. What is about the average catch of salmon?—A. Well, I cannot tell you the average—I have caught 507 salmon in one tide.

Q. Well, but the daily catch in the sockeye season?—A. Well, that will depend upon what kind of a run it was.

Q. Well, suppose we take a big run?—A. Well, I suppose about 350 or 400—probably 500 in the twenty-four hours. Well, now, their own boats might catch a great many more than that—sometimes their boats may come in twice in the twenty-four hours.

Q. Well, then, how many would canners average per boat per day?—A. Well, I should think they would catch more, but still you know the men only get \$2 and \$2.25 for going out all night, and they often make their boat fast during the evening.

Q. Cannot you tell us how many fish you get in a season?—A. Well, I cannot say exactly—I got something like 3,000, I think, last year. I worked for a man who had three licenses. He had three men in a boat and I was one of them. We worked sixteen hours in the boat and eight out—one relieved the other and we worked all the time, but I cannot say exactly how many fish I caught. I can get the numbers and send them up, if you like.

Q. Well, do you catch 1,000, 5,000 or 10,000?—A. Well, I cannot tell you exactly how many I caught. You see, there was a book and it got muddled up, for we all three were catching the fish.

Q. Are there any other remarks you desire to make?—A. Yes, I wanted to make another remark, though I don't know as you are the proper person for me to speak to about it. You see, if you give me a license now and there are no canneries open, I have to take my fish to the markets, and there is only one person to whom I can sell.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Two?—A. Well, we will put it at two; and I cannot sell my fish to any one else, and they pay me just what they like. Now, if I pay a license fee of \$20, should I not be able to sell, too? You see, I cannot sell a fish unless I pay another license, and if I go out of town I would have to pay another; and if I take it to Vancouver, I will have to pay another there.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. But if you were a farmer and grew potatoes, would you not have to pay a license to sell them in the market?—A. Well, I am not a farmer. If a man has a license, why can't I sell to whoever I like. Then, there are a lot of people, farmers, etc., who get licenses, but they cannot use them—they put Japs or Siwashas, etc., in it to work it, or whoever comes along—they would give it to me, if I caught on, I suppose.

Q. Then, you think the system wrong that prevents a fisherman selling his fish where and how he pleases? A. Yes, I do think so. Now, I think the market-men selling fish should not have licenses to catch fish. If he is a fisherman, let him catch the fish; but if he is a market-man selling fish, let him sell them. I would like to get a little shop and sell, too, if I could.

Q. Then, what do you think of the hatchery on the river?—A. Oh, I think it is a great success.

Q. And you think there should be more of them?—Yes, certainly.

Q. And what do you think of the close season?—A. Oh, that is a good thing—you must have some time to let fish get up. Why, if you were down the river and saw the numbers of boats that are there, you would think very few fish got up river.

Q. Then, do you think there should be any fishing at the mouth of the river? Would not more fish get up, if there was not so much fishing? A. Why, yes. I don't think there are any fish get up at that time—the nets are all strung across. Why, they get on top of one another almost, and get crowded up and tangled on everything. Why, last summer I saw a lot all tangled up on that "Noah's Ark" that brings snags up the river.

Q. And you think the close season a proper one?—A. Yes, I think so.

Q. What about those people who keep the Sabbath wholly?—A. Well, don't they keep it holy, sir? (Laughter.)

Q. Oh, you think it is all right after you go to church?—A. Certainly, sir.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Suppose we extend it from Saturday morning at six o'clock to Monday morning at six o'clock?—A. Well, I don't think that will do, because you want to get as much fish as you can while the fish are running—you can get them at no other time.

Q. Why not fish on Sunday then?—A. Well, you want some time to let the fish get up.

Q. Then would you extend the Sunday close time to 12 o'clock from 6?—A. Well, I don't know; it depends a good deal on the tide. More fish would come up as a rule, but I don't think there are a great many fish caught in that time.

Q. Then fish keep Sunday, do they?—A. I would not like to say that. (Laughter.) You see it is a broken day anyway.

Q. Well, but suppose we made it a whole day up to 12, would it not let more fish get up?—A. Yes, I think it would, and then if you made the boats 500 I think it would give good chances to let fish get up.

Q. Well, have you anything more to say, sir?—A. Well, I don't know as I have. I suppose you know that cannery employ more Japs and Chinamen than they do white men on the river, and the more licenses they would get the more of those people they would employ.

Q. Then if they got more than twenty boats, you think they would not want white fishermen?—A. Not if they had twenty; they would not have any use for white fishermen.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Now, you say 10 boats would supply a cannery; you have been fishing for five years—in how many out of those five years would 10 boats have supplied a cannery?—A. Three out of the five, I think—of course you gentlemen have more opportunity of going into figures than I have—I am only giving you my opinion.

Q. Well, that is just what we want—opinions on the various points?—A. Yes; of course you don't want opinions on matters you don't want to know. Well, sir, is there anything more I can do?

Mr. WILMOT.—No, sir, thank you; you have given us quite new information, and which will interest us very much.

No further evidence being forthcoming, the Chairman declared the Commission adjourned at 3.45 p.m., to meet again in Victoria, B.C., at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 3rd March, 1892, the place of meeting having been left to Mr. Commissioner Higgins to arrange.

Representations made by representatives of the New Westminster Board of Trade to Mr. Commissioner Wilmot prior to departure of Commission for Victoria.

NEW WESTMINSTER BOARD OF TRADE,

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., 2nd March, 1892.

A delegation from the New Westminster Board of Trade, consisting of Messrs. D. S. Curtis, C. J. Major and W. A. Duncan, called upon Mr. S. Wilmot at his rooms, in the Colonial Hotel, at 10 a.m., and were introduced to the Commissioner by Mr. Major.

Present:—Mr. Wilmot and Mr. Secretary Winter.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, gentlemen, anything you have to state I will be glad to hear, and we will incorporate it in our proceedings.

Mr. CURTIS.—In taking evidence here we thought that there was one important matter forgotten, and in a nutshell it is this: The canners and fishermen are very anxious that any change made in the regulations will be communicated to them as soon as possible. We had a meeting of the Board of Trade last night, and it was agreed that this should be done; it is most important for all parties that this should be so.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, gentlemen, I may say I have thought of this matter and the importance it is to the fishermen especially, and I have written to the Minister about it to issue *interim* licenses. Of course the canners don't need licenses until July.

Mr. DUNCAN.—Well, Mr. Wilmot, I may say the canners have to make their cans over two months before they get a fish, and there is always this risk until they know how many boats they can fish. The cans are not of any use another year, as they rust, and it is necessary they should know how many boats they can fish and how many fishermen's boats they can get—it is most important.

Mr. CURTIS.—This, Mr. Wilmot, is a copy of the resolution of our Board. (Handing in document).

Mr. WILMOT (reading):

“NEW WESTMINSTER BOARD OF TRADE, 2nd March, 1892.

“At a meeting of the Board of Trade, held on the 1st instant, the following resolution was passed:—

“That in the event of any change being made in the regulations governing the Fraser River fisheries this year, this Board urges the Commission to take such steps as may be necessary to make known the nature of these changes at the earliest possible moment, so that the fishermen and cannerymen may make arrangements to adapt themselves thereto.”

“Certified correct,

“(Signed.) D. ROBSON,

“Secretary.”

Mr. WILMOT (continuing).—Well, I may mention, when in Victoria some days ago, Mr. Earle and some of the canners met in his office, and this matter was talked over, and I suggested their writing to the Minister and ask for the issue of *interim* licenses, and they thought it would be very important indeed for the fishermen, but that it would not effect the canners so much. When he wired the Minister, the reply was to the effect that he was quite satisfied with the present regulations on the matter.

Mr. DUNCAN.—Well, it was thought that after the Commission got through with their work and made their report, etc., a great deal of time would elapse, and it would be better to have some arrangement made beforehand.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I think myself, individually speaking, that it would be injudicious to make any decided change before another season. This, of course, is my own individual opinion.

Mr. CURTIS.—But it is intended though, Mr. Wilmot, for the Commission to make a report on this season, is it not?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I should think there would not be any trouble in deciding about the number of licenses, for instance, and that, I think, we could settle when we get back from Victoria.

Mr. CURTIS.—That is the important thing. There are but three important questions in this matter—the number of boats to be fished, the close season, and the offal question.

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh, yes; those are the important ones.

Mr. MAJOR.—We wish to have it placed upon record—the resolution of our Board in this matter—so it will not be overlooked in any way, as if anything very different is done without due warning, it would upset their whole arrangements for the season; and, as Mr. Curtis suggested, if there is to be any material change it would be well to have it laid over for another season.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, when do the canners commence making their tins?

Mr. CURTIS.—In May or in the latter part of April.

Mr. WILMOT.—Then, if the matter were decided by the latter end of March, it would be all right would it not?

Mr. CURTIS.—Oh, yes; that would do very well. It is important that we should know a little time beforehand. Now, in 1890, when I was in the business, the canneries got according to the pack put up in previous years, and we got seventeen licenses, but we did not know of it until quite late.

Mr. WILMOT.—Why in 1890, I thought, there was an established number of, I think, twenty.

Mr. CURTIS.—Well, there were four canneries got only seventeen licenses.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, you were entitled to twenty in 1890. However, it is immaterial now. At present the number stands at twenty for each cannery, and if no effects take place from this Commission, it will stand at twenty.

Mr. CURTIS.—Well, we only got seventeen, and yet had a capacity for putting up 20,000 cases.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, now as you say, the three important points are—the number of licenses, the offal, and the close time?

Mr. CURTIS.—Well, the close season is all right as it is now.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I may say that all over the Dominion it is felt that the whole of Sunday should be kept without work—that it be made until 12 o'clock—now, it was the canners themselves who asked that the time should end at 6 o'clock—the Department desired to make it 12 o'clock, and now I think there is a disposition all round that the whole of the Sunday should be kept—many of the fishermen here we find would like to keep all Sunday—several have stated their desire to have all Sunday.

Mr. CURTIS.—Well, it is like this—if fishing is not done on Sunday night they will have nothing to work with on Monday morning.

Mr. WILMOT.—But if you fish from 12 o'clock Sunday night?

Mr. CURTIS.—Well, of course we would have some.

Mr. WILMOT.—But the fishermen tell me they catch more fish if they do not fish on Sunday night—the fish having a rest, as it were, gives them the better chance.

Mr. CURTIS.—Well, we had fishermen in our establishment who would not fish on Sunday—Newfoundlanders, etc.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, that is just a good reason, Mr. Curtis, why it should be made to 12 o'clock—we want to encourage such citizens to come into the country and run out these Greeks, Italians, etc., for they are good citizens after the fishing season is over. Then we have thought from the way it has been represented to us that it would be much better to have a good fishing community who would keep Sunday and be good citizens

in every way. Now in regard to the Indians they tell me that up on the Skeena and other rivers they do not like to fish on Sunday and it makes things better in every way.

Mr. CURTIS.—Well, that is very well, but I do not think you should have more than 36 hours of a close season.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, let them fish on Saturday then.

Mr. CURTIS.—Then they will have to work on Sunday to get rid of them.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, there is only six hours and I think the benefit of the fish getting up the river should weigh against the wishes of the canners.

Mr. CURTIS.—And if the canners do make a few dollars more what does that matter to the others? I must say, however, in all fairness that some of those men who would not fish on Sunday had the greatest number of fish caught to their credit.

Mr. WILMOT.—Then you see there does seem to be some kind of providence looking after the good fishermen (laughter.)

Mr. DUNCAN.—I may say, Mr. Wilmot, there is a great deal of talk about the fish decreasing in this river—now I don't think there is any sign of that at all.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, it has been handed down from time immemorial that fish run in cycles, and yet look at the returns—you can pick them out from the reports.

Mr. DUNCAN.—Well, but you cannot judge by the reports—it depends so much upon the amount of plant for catching the fish and conducting the fishing operations, the facilities for doing the work, etc.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, these questions have been asked so as to obtain information as to habits of salmon, etc., as well as to elicit opinions upon matters in connection with your canning business—some say there is an "off" year every four years, etc., and when we put these altogether, you see we will be able to get some valuable data.

Mr. MAJOR.—Yes; there is another point too—about the hatchery.

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh yes; now you gentlemen of the Board of Trade what do you think of the hatchery—has it been a success?

Mr. DUNCAN.—Yes, it has—and I think the other gentlemen will agree with me in the same.

Mr. CURTIS.—Well, I attribute the less number of "off" years to the hatchery.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I could not give the same amount of credit to it that many others do, because it has not been upon a sufficiently large scale, but still, of course, I believe in artificial breeding as a supplementary aid to the natural, but I do not think if the natural breeding grounds are not cared for the hatchery will make up for it.

Mr. MAJOR.—You must remember, Mr. Wilmot, that this is a specially productive country.

Mr. DUNCAN.—I certainly believe that the hatchery has been beneficial—now, take the number of fish caught on the Fraser River in a whole season—I do not suppose they would be more than two or three millions—now if you put out many millions of young ones, even if but a small number escape, they must aid the supply very much.

Mr. MAJOR.—Well, I must say I expected more information on this head to come out before this Commission—I may say I have been somewhat disappointed at not hearing more, but the time will not I presume permit of going extensively into the question of the habits of salmon on the Pacific coast—I fancy they vary somewhat from the habits of salmon on the Atlantic?

Mr. WILMOT.—No, not the habits, but you have a great many more families of salmon here than we have in the east.

Mr. MAJOR.—Well, there are a great many other questions—now it is held that the young fish from this river come back again to the Fraser River.

Mr. WILMOT.—Yes.

Mr. MAJOR.—But why? There must be a reason—why, in passing the Columbia River do not they go in there?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, salmon go in families—they all know their own rivers.

Mr. MAJOR.—Well, if you notice them at the mouths of rivers you will see them in thousands away at the mouths of the rivers all along the Pacific coast and they will wait there until a certain time before they will come in. Now do you think the young salmon from the hatchery will come into this river again?

Mr. WILMOT.—Yes, certainly ; now I have had much experience in this matter—in the eastern provinces the same thing prevails—in the St. John River the fish come in and the fish belonging to the different streams running in can be told to which they belong.

Mr. DUNCAN.—Well, I think there is no doubt about that—fish here have been marked with silver rings in the tails and have been caught coming back.

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh, yes ; they have been marked at different places—that has been done frequently and the fact of their return is altogether beyond question.

Before we part, gentlemen, I may say I was asking Mr. Robson if there was any time in your city when complaints were made about the effects of offal in the river and if there was any convictions ?

Mr. MAJOR.—Well, yes ; there were complaints about the offal from English's Cannery here and we made a row about it.

Mr. WILMOT.—Do you know if it is on record ?

Mr. MAJOR.—Well, I don't know of that, but I may say that with our water here there comes down a silt and sedimentary matter which after it stands a little time has a disagreeable smell and becomes offensive.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, gentlemen, in conclusion I may say that I do not think the Department desires to hamper the canning industry in any way, but many complaints have been made on this point and we desire to arrive at a correct conclusion as to its effects. I may say too that I was quite struck with the complaints of the people from Delta the other day. Delegates from the Municipality came here and represented that the effects were most injurious, not only to their stock but to the general health of the community, and you, gentlemen, will readily see that when the public health is threatened the convenience of a few who do not reside, except in one or two solitary instances, in the neighbourhood effected, cannot bar the way to change and remedial measures for the bettering of things for the safety of the community. My own opinion is that a valuable product can be made from this offal in the shape of both oil and fertilizer.

Mr. DUNCAN.—Oh, yes ; has anything been done upon that point ?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, we have got considerable information on this subject, but as yet it seems to be in an experimental stage. In the papers recently there appeared an article upon this very matter—in the "Colonist" of 20th February last, I think it was—giving an account where samples were sent down to the Ontario Department of Agriculture and an analysis was made which showed that a most valuable fertilizer could be made from the offal—I think they placed its values at about \$34 a ton.

Well, gentlemen, if there is nothing else you desire to represent, I will now ask you to excuse me—we are leaving for Victoria to-day, and have not very much time just now to spare. Your request shall have the best attention of the Commission and your statements will be placed on record with our proceedings.

Mr. CURTIS.—Thank you, Mr. Wilmot, we will not detain you longer—the importance of the industry and the injustice of giving our people fair warning of any change or intended change in the regulations must be our justification for coming to you at this late hour.

The delegation then withdrew at 10.30 a.m.

VICTORIA, B. C., Friday, 3rd March, 1892.

Morning Session.

The Commission met in the Board of Trade Rooms, Victoria, at 10 a.m.

Present :—Mr. S. Wilmot, in the chair ; Mr. Commissioner Higgins, Mr. Commissioner Armstrong and Mr. Secretary Winter.

At 10.15 a.m., the Chairman called the Commission to order.

Mr. WILMOT.—This meeting having adjourned to Victoria, till 10 a.m. to-day, I now declare this Commission open for business.

Mr. ROBERT WARD.—May I enquire Mr. Chairman, as to the scope of this Commission? Most of the gentlemen present to-day have had no chance of being at any of the previous meetings, and would like to know the scope and powers of this Commission.

Mr. WILMOT.—The sphere of the Commission is to take in all matters relating to the fisheries of British Columbia—if there are any gentlemen present desirous of submitting anything to the Board we are open to receive it.

Mr. STEPHEN SPENCER, a native of the United States, and resident of Alert Bay, B.C., living in British Columbia for some 35 years, by occupation a salmon canner, was then duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Now sir, what have you to submit?—A. In regard to seining operations in the Ninkish River—I do not think, of course, as established for the last 10 or 11 years, and always using seines, we can catch fish in any other mode except with seines. As very likely the Commission is not aware how we use those seines, perhaps it would be better for me to explain, so you may judge. We have seines with meshes according to law, and fish have access to the river at all times. We can only fish at certain times—we never fish at night time, because we cannot see. When we extend a net we never extend it across the river—we put it out merely to get them but we never fish at night time—that is not in consideration, because we cannot see and there is therefore uninterrupted chances for the fish to get up the river for nearly eighteen hours out of the twenty-four. There is no possibility of gilling them, because there is no water and only one or two places where we can haul the seines so to speak. The first year we were canning the fish were very plentiful.

Q. What year was that, sir?—A. Some eleven years ago, I think—the first year they were plentiful, the second they were not, and it was with great difficulty we got 4,000 cases—some years since they have been plentiful and some not.

Q. The Ninkish River—the “Alert Bay” Canning Co.?—A. Yes sir.

Q. How long ago is it since you commenced fishing there?—A. Some eleven years ago—the runs varied from year to year. In 1890 for instance—that was the year of the most plentiful fish on the river and when our cans were all full.

Q. 1890 was the biggest year on the river?—A. Yes; 1890.

Q. What in 1889?—A. Fair—6,000 cases, I think, we put up, but still we never fish after we put up a certain number of cases—we calculated the capacity of the cannery at some 6,000 cases and could have canned much more that year but we only calculated to fill a certain number of cans, but for some weeks after that the fish were plentiful but not one fish was taken out of the river.

Q. Can you estimate how many you might have taken out?—A. Well, I don't know; I think we could have taken some hundreds more cases. In 1890 our pack was about 7,200 cases; last year, it was just the reverse. I only packed some 700 cases. The last year was about the worst since I have been a canneryman.

Q. Are facts as recorded that in 1887 you packed 4,200 cases?—A. Well, I don't know. I don't recollect ever giving anybody the correct number, but I don't doubt that it is correct.

Q. No; I am not referring to the departmental account; I am simply taking it from the report of the British Columbia Board of Trade.—A. Of course, I give the figures into the department, but I cannot tell from memory.

Q. How do you account for the great falling off in these years?—A. Well, I don't know. I think it a freak of nature, that is all. Perhaps there was not food there for them to induce them to come.

Q. Do you think there could be too much fishing and not enough left to breed?—A. No; I don't think so. There has never been any abnormal fishing there. I have heard that the Indians do fishing that is injurious, but there has not been any change at all in the mode of Indian fishing. There is always a clear road for the fish to go up.

Q. Then you think it must be some other mode of fishing, or something else than Indian fishing?—A. Yes; something else.

Q. And are these sockeye?—A. Yes.

Q. And they have fallen off in quantity?—A. Yes; they have; but it is not because fish have not had opportunity to come in to spawn, for every year they have had plenty of time, even after our cans were filled. And it cannot be said that it is on account of the seine fishing; they are not as bad as gill-nets, for we can only fish at certain times, and there is plenty of chance for them to get up.

Q. Is it a fact that there are small lakes at the head of this river?—A. Yes; there are small lakes some sixteen miles up from the mouth.

Q. And these are the breeding places of the sockeye?—A. I suppose so—yes.

Q. How wide is the mouth of the river at low tide where you draw your seine?—A. Well, probably it is more than 200 or 300 yards, but we fish in salt water at low tide. We haul on the little island, but it is covered at high tide and is right in salt water.

Q. How do you pitch your seine—go out in a boat?—A. We go out on shore, and the fish show themselves on the surface; then we go out with the seine and make a water haul.

Q. When you see the fish?—A. Yes; we have a good many water hauls.

Q. Then your system is—when you see fish showing on the surface, you try and surround them and bring them in. Sometimes you get fish and sometimes not?—A. Yes; we frequently get water hauls. Last year they were very frequent.

Q. What kind of seine do you usually use—one with corks on top and leads at the bottom?—A. Yes; the usual seine; not a bag-net, by any means. The meshes are those regulated by law.

Q. The lead lines sweep the bottom do they?—A. Well, it all depends on the current—sometimes no current will take them down.

Q. How many boats do you fish with?—A. Two; there are only two licenses on the river; I have fished under special licenses from the department; formerly it was \$25 for each seine.

Q. And what is the length of the seine?—A. 150 fathoms.

Q. And the depth?—A. I cannot tell you.

Q. Well, how many meshes is it deep?—A. Well, I can't tell.

Q. If you fished in 30 feet of water it would be 30 feet deep, I suppose?—A. No; it varies.

Q. How deep is it where you usually haul your seine?—A. I cannot tell you because it shoals off, and you may get them in deep or shallow water.

Q. But the tendency of the net if shallow is to go to the bottom?—A. Certainly.

Q. And it will sweep the bottom as far as it goes?—A. Yes; that is the purport of it, as far as it goes.

Q. Could you tell us the number of fish you have taken at one haul?—A. Well, I cannot tell exactly, but I think possibly 1,000 at one time; we once filled nine boat loads with the result of one haul, somewhere about 8,000 fish; that was the biggest haul at one time ever made on the river; that was last year, and the day after I could have taken a much bigger haul from the look of the fish.

Q. You say you can fish only in certain places, what is the reason?—A. There are many snags there and you have to keep clear of them.

Q. What is the radius of water where you usually sweep your seine?—A. About half a mile.

Q. Could you not use gill nets there?—A. No; I have tried it, but it was not successful.

Q. How do others use gill nets at the mouth of the Fraser River?—A. Because the water is not clear; it is muddy.

Q. Well, how about in the eastern provinces where it is all clear water?—A. Well, I do not think it would do here.

Q. Do fish stay at the mouth of the river awhile before they go up?—A. Yes; they do not go up for a few days. I contend no fish go up until they are mature and ready to go up; in other words until ready to spawn.

Q. How early do you commence fishing there?—A. About the end of June.

Q. Do any fish spawn in June, to your knowledge?—A. No.

Q. Then they are waiting there to go up and you catch them while they are waiting to go?—A. Well, I do not say they are all waiting to go to spawn, and then the Indians catch many.

Q. What are the meshes of your nets?—A. $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. I think the law requires $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Q. Are the meshes in the bag of the net any different?—A. No; all one measure, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches extension measure.

Q. What is the average size of sockeye salmon there?—A. Well, the average year will take about 12 to a case.

Q. Making your salmon about 7 pounds?—A. Something like that; some years larger and some smaller.

Q. And about 12 to a case?—A. Yes; about that on the average.

Q. How many cans to a fish, four?—A. Four cans.

Q. And the difference between four and seven and eight would be offal?—A. Yes.

Q. What do you do with the offal?—A. It is deposited in salt water; you perhaps are not aware that the canneries on the Ninkish River are on a little island, about two miles from the mouth of the river. The fish are caught in the river and brought over to the cannery and cleaned there; we have a shoot that takes offal out into salt water and it is carried off; in a week's time after we have done fishing there is nothing seen of it.

Q. Have you any exclusive right by lease or otherwise to the river?—A. I don't own any portion of the river, but I have a claim there. I applied to the Government for a lease and the Government agreed that I should have the right to fish for \$150.

Q. Do you take out boat licenses?—A. I don't need to take license; I was fishing under lease. Before having the lease I paid \$25 a year for a net.

Q. How many persons are employed in your cannery?—A. Between fifty and sixty.

Q. Principally what?—A. Indians principally.

Q. How many white men will you have in that establishment?—A. Eight or nine; we don't have a large number.

Q. What number inside the cannery for all purposes?—A. About three; the balance are principally Indians and a number of Chinamen.

Q. How many Chinamen?—A. About eleven; last year I think it was eleven; sometimes I have had more but I have tried to utilize the Indian labour.

Q. Are your boats fished by Indians or do you buy your fish from Indians?—A. I have bought them from Indians.

Q. Where do they fish for them?—A. Up the river in the narrow passes chiefly.

Q. Does not your employing them make them catch more fish than before you went there?—A. No; I don't think so.

Q. Then they deprive themselves of food?—A. No; you mistake the habits of the Indians altogether; they don't want the sockeye at all.

Q. What are the fish in your river?—A. There is the blue-back, as we call them; then there comes the sockeye; then the satsum.

Q. Is that the same as the cohoe?—A. No; they are a large fish, twenty pounds or so.

Q. Are they not spring salmon?—A. Well, some say so, but others do not.

Q. Then the Ninkish River is inhabited by much the same fish as other rivers along the coast?—A. Yes; I think so.

Q. But your principal fish is sockeye and that has decreased of late years?—A. Yes; sockeye is the principal one, but I don't think they have really decreased; some years there are less than others.

Q. And you say the Indians will not eat sockeye, but will eat others not as good; the humpback for instance?—A. Well, they will not use them, but they want the humpback for drying.

Q. But you don't use the humpback for your work?—A. Not at all. I contend that it was only a freak of nature that fish did not come last year.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Where do these fish go to spawn?—A. Well, as far as I know they have been seen in the lakes above.

Q. Have you ever ascended the river or been up to the falls?—A. I have never been to the falls.

Q. Have you ever heard of obstructions being put in the channel to prevent fish from going up—Indians put rock in so as to dam the channel?—A. I never knew anything of the kind—the Indians have a reserve and they simply put the regular net there but in no case obstructing the river.

Q. Do fish go up river in large quantities?—A. They do.

Q. Have you any experience in regard to the life of fish after going up to spawn?—A. Well, I have some knowledge—everybody varies.

Q. What is your experience?—A. I think fish go up and return—of course a certain percentage die.

Q. Have you ever seen any dead fish up there?—A. I never have—I have heard of dead fish being seen up on the lake—Capt. J. McAllister who has prospected up there has told me he has seen them—then I have tagged fish—have marked them and have caught them the following year.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. In good condition?—A. Just as good as others.

Q. Do you think Indians have any object in preserving the fish?—A. Well, I don't think they care—it is the hardest thing for me to induce those people to go fishing for me—they are a happy-go-lucky people.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. You say you throw offal in the water—is it in deep water?—A. It is thrown in salt water and goes out to sea.

Q. Have you seen scavenger fish eat it?—A. Yes, lots of them.

Q. And if offal lies at low water would the tide take it all away and would the little fish eat it all before the next low tide?—A. Well, they would not eat it all always, but it would soon go—sometimes it might lay for 24 hours.

Q. Regarding the failure of fish last year, have you any hatchery up there?—A. No, none.

Q. 7,000 cases was the largest number of cases you ever put up?—A. Yes, by about 1,000 cases.

Q. Do you think putting up that number of cases had an effect on the run of fish?—A. No, not at all.

Q. Fish are very erratic?—A. Very erratic—look at Skenna River.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. May I ask you, Mr. Spencer—you say that in '90 your catch was greater than in former years—you mean your pack, not your catch—did you not pack from other places?—A. No, not to any great extent.

Q. Then your pack in '89 and '90 was lessened and you resorted to other places to make up the amount?—A. Not at all, sir.

Q. But in 1888 your pack was 5,000, and in '90, 7,280 cases, and you have supplemented your pack by getting them from other places?—A. Not at all—I was prospecting, as we say, to get fish and to see where they were, but I didn't make it up—I got a few, but not many—I could have caught plenty in the Nimkish River if I had wished to can them.

Q. But you did supplement your catch in '89 and '90?—A. Not at all—I do not consider that at all in that way, because I could have filled more cans out of the Nimkish River, but as I had the fish caught from prospecting around, I put them up, but I could have caught plenty of fish in the Nimkish River.

Q. Well, what I want to get at is—a complaint has been made that fish have much decreased in that river and it would go to show that from your catch—now in 1887 you put up 4,200 cases, in 1888, 5,000, in 1889, 7,140 and in 1890, 7,280 cases—therefore in 1889 and 1890 there must have been some aid from other places?—A. Not at all—I don't consider it aided me in one can—I always cease when I get a certain number of cans.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. You always stop when you get a certain number of cans ?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. In 1890 you took the usual number of cases ?—A. I filled 6,000 cases—all the cans I had.

Q. In 1891 you got only 600 cases ?—A. This year was different—I had tins left over then.

Q. You say all salmon do not die ?—A. Yes ; my opinion is a certain percentage die but not all—I would like to put a man on the stand who is a practical man and who knows all about the river and can tell you all about the fish, etc., there.

Mr. RITHET (from the audience).—Mr. Chairman, I would like very much to put a question to Mr. Spencer before he leaves the stand, or if you will ask it for me ?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, we objected to that before, but if the other Commissioners are willing, I of course will not object.

Mr. WARD (from the audience).—I may say, Mr. Chairman, that it is the usual practice in courts to allow questions being asked.

Mr. WILMOT.—That would be tantamount to counsel, would it not ?

Mr. WARD.—Yes ; I think it would.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I think that we should permit this question being asked—I am of opinion that the fullest possible scope should be given to this enquiry.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, if gentlemen like Mr. Spencer, or any other gentlemen, comes forward he should have prepared his statement on any matters and then let us question him.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well I think a question like this should be allowed—when I was over there in New Westminster, I saw questions allowed.

Mr. WILMOT.—Only in one instance, sir.

Mr. HIGGINS.—But he had it nevertheless.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, that is one of the questions that I feared would cause trouble from the commencement—we found after allowing one man to come forward everybody wanted to do the same—now if we allow Mr. Rithet to ask questions it would be tantamount to counsel—now I do not think that counsel is at all necessary at this stage of the proceedings—if counsel were necessary it should be where the preponderance of the evidence was taken—I think Mr. Higgins is wrong in saying he heard questions put at Westminster.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I heard a man put questions when there—now the Chairman has stated that the question should be allowed.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, if I agree to allow this, I will do so only if we are not to have it again.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I won't agree to that at all.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, if Mr. Rithet wants to put a question it will be heard with all attention possible, but we made certain rules when we commenced this Commission—Mr. Higgins has said he heard questions put in New Westminster, but I must say it was only as an exceptional case.

Mr. RITHET.—Well, gentlemen, I very much regret indeed if such a simple request of mine is to be the cause of so much trouble. I am sorry that I attempted to put any questions, but I came to this Commission under the idea that it was open to the public and that every bit of evidence bearing upon the fisheries would be admitted, but if I am mistaken—

Mr. WILMOT.—Pardon me, sir, are you making a statement on your own account, if so we must swear you the same as all other persons.

Mr. RITHET.—Well, excuse me, I was apologizing. The matter about which I wished to speak arose out of the evidence given by Mr. Spencer.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Still, if we allow you to be heard in this way, Mr. Rithet, we will have every one else asking the same.

Mr. WARD.—Well the reason, Mr. Chairman, that we wished to speak was because we understood this Commission was for the sifting of all facts, and if they simply sit there and arrogate to themselves—

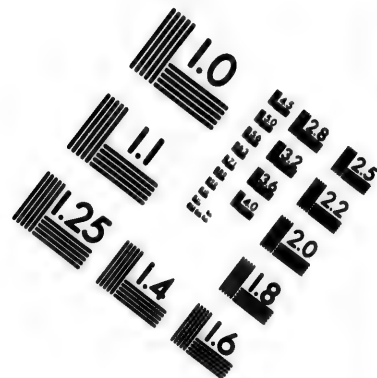
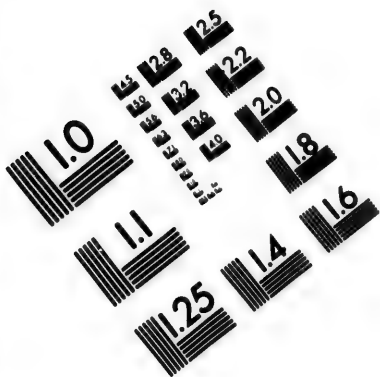
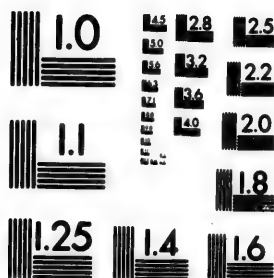


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Mr. WILMOT.—What is that, sir? If you say *arrogate* I will request you to withdraw it.

Mr. WARD.—On request, I will withdraw it—but (impressively), I do not think the evidence is being taken impartially.

Mr. WILMOT.—Pardon me, sir, I must call you to order; as Chairman I call you to order.

Mr. WARD.—Well, sir, I bow to your decision, but it is the first Commission ever I have attended under any Government where the Chairman acted in so extraordinary a manner and where matters were not represented by counsel.

Mr. WILMOT.—That is beside the question.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, Mr. Ward, I must tell you that most of the evidence is now taken, we have examined some 70 witnesses in New Westminster, and I think if counsel was to be allowed it should have been done there.

Mr. WARD.—But we have not had an opportunity of going before the Commission.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I think if Mr. Rithet wishes to ask this question we will allow it in this one case, but on condition that none other comes up.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I object to that ruling, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, if you object to my ruling I will withdraw my ruling, and I will now rule that the question may not be put.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I will ask for a vote on that point.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, gentlemen, I think you are all wrong in thinking these questions should be allowed; in a court, no one in the audience is permitted to get up and ask questions of a witness who is under examination; it is absurd; no one but practitioners are allowed to ask questions and they have to do it in a proper manner. I would suggest that Mr. Rithet should hand up any question to me for the Chairman that he desires to put and it will be put properly through the Chair.

Mr. RITHET.—Excuse me, but I consider that you are all wrong. A Commission of this kind is entirely different to a court; a good deal of latitude is allowed and greater scope in any Commission of this kind than in any court.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Certainly, Mr. Rithet, but we cannot allow these questions to be put by counsel.

Mr. WILMOT.—I think if Mr. Rithet had gone to Mr. Spencer and asked him any question on matters that had occurred it would be quite right, but to come as counsel, I do not consider it is correct.

Mr. RITHET.—I am told even if I had handed it in to witness, that I would have been checked.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Who told you that?—A. Mr. Munn.

Mr. MUNN (from audience).—Yes; I have seen it in Westminster. I declare I have seen persons objected to because they handed in questions to the witness on the stand.

Mr. WILMOT.—I may say that such did occur in one case, but it was quite different to this. At the time objections were taken to hearing a man, he was questioning and making interruptions while the witness was speaking, and, of course, such could not be allowed. We must maintain order.

Mr. J. H. TODD (speaking from the audience).—Will the Commissioners allow me to say a word? I must say, in regard to the statement made by Mr. Spencer, that—

Mr. ARMSTRONG (interrupting).—You cannot be allowed to dispute any witness's statements.

Mr. WILMOT.—Mr. Todd can come on the stand, under oath, like any other person, but we will not hear him in any other way.

Mr. TODD (indignantly).—Well, we will retire, and not come back.

Mr. WARD (from audience).—Yes; we have rights, and we want them respected.

Mr. WILMOT.—Sit down; don't get excited.

Mr. WARD (scornfully).—We are not excited. We are not going to be sat upon by anybody. We have our rights, and we are going to be heard.

Mr. TODD.—If we are not heard, we can leave the room.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I will suggest that Mr. Rithet put his question through any of the Commissioners. You come and sit along side of either of us, Mr. Rithet or Mr. Ward, and put your questions.

Mr. RITHET.—No ; I will not put questions unless I can state them direct.
 Mr. WILMOT to Mr. WINTER.—Mr. Secretary, you will take down those words from Mr. Rithet, and mine, in reply. He said he was not allowed to ask questions.

Mr. RITHET (emphatically).—I have not, sir ; I deny that.

Mr. WILMOT.—Why, certainly you did, and that is your impression of the whole matter : that you were not allowed to ask questions at all, whereas we offered you a mode of doing so, which you would not accept.

Mr. RITHET.—I did not say that I was not allowed to ask questions.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Oh, never mind. It is all right. Don't bother. I, for one, am willing that you should put your question. Mr. Rithet, do you wish to put the question ?

Mr. RITHET.—No, thank you, Mr. Higgins, I do not. I have nothing more to say.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, if there is any other gentleman desirous of giving evidence, we will proceed with the examination of witnesses.

THOMAS BOGART, of Rock Bay, a native of England, eleven years in British Columbia, a fisherman, was duly sworn.

Mr. BOGART.—I have fished for Mr. Spencer seven seasons, and the nets we use there only enclose a little part of the river, and are only in the water about half an hour at a time. To my knowledge, in the seven years I have worked there, I have never seen the river closed to stop fish from going up. There was one season there was plenty of fish, and more were netted than required for the cannery, and we marked some, and we caught them the next year and the next year, and in the third year. We took little pieces off the tail, and could see them easily.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Were fish that were marked larger or about the same size ?—A. Well, we could not tell ; they all were about the same size ; there seemed no difference.

Q. That was in three years in succession ?—A. Yes ; that is all I have got to say.

Q. What conclusion did you come to, that they were fish returned from the waters above ?—A. They must have returned from above, because they came in and must have got back from above.

Q. Then your impression is that a certain proportion of fish return ?—A. Yes.

Q. How many fish would be caught at one haul ?—A. Six, seven and eight thousand in a good run.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Do you know where these fish go to spawn in Ninkish River ?—A. I think they must go to the lakes at the head of the river.

Q. Were you ever up to the lake ?—A. Yes ; I have been up to the rapids ; I never was in the lake.

Q. Are there any artificial means to obstruct fish going up ?—A. No, sir ; I have seen little traps on each side, but there was always room for many to go up.

Q. How wide are these channels ?—A. Some five, some six, some nine hundred yards.

Q. Pretty swift water ?—A. Yes ; very hard to pull up.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Did you ever see fish returning in any number ?—A. No, sir ; but we do not stop there ; we come back as soon as the fishing season is over.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Have you ever noticed what becomes of offal ?—A. Well, some floats away and some is eaten by fish.

Q. Are there plenty of dog-fish around there ?—A. Yes ; all kinds.

Q. Have you done any fishing in any other river ?—A. In the Fraser River one season.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. In a big or small run?—A. It was a big run that year.

Q. You say about offal ; some floats away, and then does some remain on the shore?—A. No ; it all floats away ; I never saw any along the beach.

Q. How long have you fished there?—A. In '88, '89 and '90.

Q. Were any other fish brought to the cannery from places?—A. Yes ; a few were brought over, but they did not amount to very much.

Q. Have you any idea why the decrease was so much greater there for some years?—A. I have no idea ; I cannot tell.

Q. What time of the year do you commence to fish?—A. About the middle of June, 12th, 16th, and so on.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. You have heard what Mr. Spencer says in regard to nets, is all correct?—Yes ; that is correct ; it is 165 meshes in the middle and tapers off to the end.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. That is, you mean to say the wings and two ends of the net are narrower?—A. Yes ; they are not so deep.

Q. And that forms a kind of bag does it not?—A. Yes ; when you haul in on the lead lines.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Are any other kind of fish caught there?—A. No ; a few flounders, that is all.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Any halibut?—A. No ; not of any account ; there is nobody fishing halibut there ; it is too far from market ; we have caught a few for ourselves.

Q. Have you ever fished with a gill-net?—A. We have tried it in day time and at night, but we never could catch any.

Q. What was the reason?—A. The fish see it ; the water is as clear as June ; I don't think there is any other way to catch fish there unless by seines.

Q. How far does the net go out in the river?—A. Well, we start and go out about half way, and then from there fetch the net ashore.

Q. And consequently it would take everything in front of it?—A. Yes, of course.

Q. And would the lead lines be on the bottom?—A. Yes ; we fish from half tide up to a little near the flood.

Q. What is the height of tide there—the usual rise and fall?—A. About 16 feet—between 15 and 16 feet.

Q. How far does the tide go up the river?—A. About 3 miles—between 3 and 4 miles.

Q. What is the size of the river?—A. About 3 rods ; in some places not so wide ; some places not over one rod between the rocks ; three rods is about the broadest where we fish.

Q. And on that three rods you take your net out half way?—A. Yes.

Q. Any times more than that?—A. No ; just about half ; we hardly ever go any farther ; we have to go back to shore with the net or you lose your fish ; they go out again.

Q. Is there any possibility of fishing with a gill-net up the river where you speak of?—A. I don't think so, sir ; and then it is not very deep water, and you could not use your gill-net ; it is all rocks and shallow water.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Do you ever see many dead fish in the river?—A. No, sir.

Mr. WILMOT.—Have you ever been up in the lake itself?—A. I have just been to the last rapid ; I have not been in the lake.

Q. Then you do not know if there are any small streams running into the lake?—

A. No ; I don't know.

Mr. WILMOT.—That will do, sir ; thank you.

ROBERT WARD, of the city of Victoria, British Columbia, a native of England, a merchant, doing business in Victoria, and resident of British Columbia since 1870, was duly sworn.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, sir, have you anything to submit to the Commission.

Mr. WARD.—Well, I might state—the Commissioners might like to ask me questions?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, we have a list of questions which we have asked witnesses; you have no statement to make?—A. I would prefer those questions being asked first.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, your views on offal?—A. Perhaps I should state first of all that during my residence in the province I have been engaged most of the time, not directly but indirectly, in the fishing industry, and I may say since the commencement of the canning industry. The offal question: my experience, as far as it goes, has not shown me that it has had any bad effects on the water of the rivers; I speak of the Fraser River, because I am more intimately acquainted with the Fraser River than any other stream in the province. It has been my duty to visit the Fraser River both during the fishing season and out of season. It has been suggested that the offal might be profitably disposed of other than the manner in which it is thrown away at the present time; it has been suggested that it should be utilized at oil factories and converted into fish guano. I may state that this has been tried by a man of capital and a man of practical experience and knowledge, who after two seasons found that he was losing money very considerably by the operation. It was also tried as a venture to Great Britain, which is really the only available point for shipping it, and the result was absolute loss. I might state further that on account of its objectionable character as a manure, it is very difficult to obtain vessels to carry it. There was a shipment made from Victoria four or five years ago by one of the Hudson Bay vessels, and it arrived home in a very dilapidated and unsatisfactory condition, and that resulted in loss. The average price of such stuff in the old country is about £7 a ton, and the freight will probably amount to 50 or 60 shillings—I am speaking now on the lowest possible estimate for which such freight could be procured.

I would like to state with regard to the Blue Book, which was published last year upon the question of waste, which comes under the category of offal, that a great deal of irritation was experienced among the cannerymen on seeing the illustrations which appeared showing the parts decapitated from the fish and stated to be absolute waste. I might state that my own personal experience during the time I have indicated, is that I have never seen the waste such as is alleged in this report, and in further corroboration of that, with regard to these numerous pieces (showing illustrations in Report Fisheries Department, 1890, p. 66-67), the tail pieces that are shown in the diagram—it was absolutely astonishing to myself on seeing it, for I have not only considerable experience in this country, but I also visit the old country, where I see the out-put on its arrival. I may state with respect to one very large establishment—a few years ago they complained that the complaint was made by buyers that there were too many tail pieces in the shipments. The obvious answer to that was that we could not find fish in British Columbia without tails. (Laughter.)

Mr. WILMOT, (jocularly). It has been proven here, sir, that you make half of the "tales" here. (Laughter.)

Mr. WARD (sarcastically)—Is that so? (Laughter.) (Continuing). My experience is only that of the Fraser River—I am not a practical canneryman. I might state that it has been alleged by the Department that I am a canneryman, and that the British Columbia Board of Trade—which originally asked for this Commission to hold enquiry—and rather a partial enquiry it is—that this Board was composed of cannerymen. I have to put in a statement in rebuttal of this sentiment. It was said it was largely composed of cannerymen—now a glance at the first pages of the Annual Report of the British Columbia Board of Trade for 1891, which was printed, and a copy sent to the Department, will show that only some five or six of the membership are cannerymen. I would like to put in another matter on this question of waste and it repeats much what I have already stated. According to the Report of Mr. Chairman, the cannerymen think they were being wrongfully represented before the public, because of greed, voraciousness, etc., and which, I think, I can prove are altogether underserved. It is not in the interest of cannerymen to

do as alleged in this report, and I may say I have had complaints from consumers in Great Britain that too many tail pieces appear. Of course, it will be obvious to the Commissioners, that heads and fins would not be merchantable if they were canned. I have seen offal thrown into the Fraser River in deep water, but I have never seen it after it has been thrown in. The current generally on the fishing grounds of the Fraser River is very rapid, and like everything else cast into that rapid stream, it is out of sight very quickly. Now, I do not know if the Commissioners would like to ask me questions about this offal?

Mr. WILMOT.—You say, Mr. Ward, that you are not a practical canner—you are indirectly engaged in the matter—what then is your special function?

Mr. WARD.—I am an agent for several canning companies carrying on business on the Fraser River and elsewhere.

Mr. WILMOT.—You are agent and practically don't know their working on the river?

Mr. WARD.—I am an agent, but I have many practical chances of observation and of seeing the work both in and out of season.

Mr. WILMOT.—Are you a voluntary agent or a paid agent?—A. I am a paid agent for three companies.

Q. Would you mention them?—A. Ewen & Co.; Bon Accord Fishery Co.; A. J. McLellan.

Q. Have you any interest in the canneries yourself?—A. I have not—I may say that my opinion is that the canning business is not a very favourable one, and I may say that I would not now accept the agency of a cannery. I have refused some lately. I have been offered agencies from time to time which I have refused—my chief reason for such refusal is that it is a very precarious business and has been for some time, and I would like to state that I have been reading evidence taken at Westminster and I have noticed that very numerous profits have been made by canners. I am on oath, and I state for the information of this Commission, that as far as I have seen, no evidence has been forthcoming to show how many canners have failed in this business—probably there is not more than one or two outside of the English Syndicate that are well to do. I have seen good men embark in that industry, and I have seen them retire as paupers—I will not mention names for personal reasons—but I know that in one case where thousands of pounds were in that industry embarked on the Fraser River and in a few years, not only the capital had gone but also some \$30,000. During the last five years, seven canners have absolutely failed.

Q. And you are stating this as their agent?—A. As one intimately connected with the whole business.

Q. The purchase and sale of the article manufactured?—A. Yes; salmon is like any other article of manufacture—it fluctuates with supply and demand, and though in some seasons it has been profitable, I have known others in which it has not only been unprofitable, but absolute loss to pack it, and I would like to mention in corroboration of that fact, that at the time when the system in vogue on the Fraser River was practically an unlimited system of licenses—during the years 1883, 1884 and 1885—where as a matter of fact the canners should have procured as many cases of salmon as they pleased, they were deterred from pushing their business by the poor condition of the market and instead of packing, as they could,—eight canners in 1884 absolutely closed down altogether. In 1885, six of them closed down there from same reasons, and at that time also the system of licenses was practically unlimited. I might state that one argument in support of what I have stated in regard to the precarious character of the business is the result of the uncertainty of the regulations.

Mr. WILMOT.—I trust you will not consider that I am at all interrupting you, but as this is solely the question of offal, the question of licenses would bring the matter up on which you are speaking.

Mr. WARD.—Very good, sir; I am in your hands; only one question leads to another, I would prefer, perhaps, if you would question me.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. You say you are indirectly engaged with canneries, not directly?—A. Not directly.

Q. And you think you can give practical answers to these questions in regard to canneries?—A. Yes; most decidedly.

Q. Do you know how many fish may be taken during one run and taken to the cannery?—A. No; of course I cannot state exactly. I am not familiar with them.

Q. You know fish when you see them?—A. Yes; I know them very well.

Q. You know sockeye?—A. Yes; I am familiar with it.

Q. And what do you think the average size of sockeye would be?—A. About 8 pounds; they vary; I have seen them smaller at times.

Q. Have you an idea what number of cans would be made out of an 8-pound fish?—A. I believe four or five. I am speaking without the book, Mr. Chairman, I don't cut up fish. The cans when filled go up to 20 and 22 ounces.

Mr. WILMOT.—But it is a pound can.

Mr. WARD.—Yes; it is a pound can, but we always give more.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. And then the balance between the number of cans and the weight of the fish must be offal, would it not?—A. Yes; offal, blood, etc., but this tail piece is much too large in this diagram; it is not correct.

Q. Well, I will draw your attention to the Departmental Report for 1889. If you will take this book, sir, you will see that 14,789,856 cans of salmon were put up. Well, now, sir; if 5 pounds represents a salmon, that would take 2,957,971 salmon to put up that number of cans, and a good proportion of them must be offal?—A. Yes; a proportion of the whole would certainly be offal, that would be about $\frac{3}{8}$ of the whole would be offal, blood, etc.

Q. And 14,789,856 pounds of salmon canned would be how much gross weight of fish?—A. Well, it would be practically impossible to get at the exact figures. I have seen cans weigh 22 ounces; I have seen them weigh 24 ounces. I may safely say the cans always weigh more than a pound.

Q. Well, but in taking millions we need not take these odd ounces?—A. Well, but if you are taking millions of pounds these millions of ounces will run up to many pounds.

Q. Well, for argument's sake we will take the figures. In 1889 there were put up 14,789,856 one-pound cans, now—A. Pardon me, are you speaking of the Fraser River or the whole of British Columbia?

Q. We are taking the catch as laid down in the Departmental Report of 1889.—A. Well, if that applies to the whole of British Columbia, of course the quantity of the Fraser River would be a little more than half the aggregate.

Q. Yes; the reason I am asking you these questions is because I think these figures are put in by the Board of Trade; the Fraser River alone, and south to the American boundary, gave 14,789,856 cans; this would be, say, $\frac{3}{8}$ of the total weight of fish caught to produce that number of cans; then the total weight would be about 23,663,769 pounds, and as the difference, it is admitted, would be offal, that would leave 8,873,913 pounds of offal.—A. Well, I am not prepared to support or dispute such a statement as that, because I say the actual figures are impossible to obtain, first, on account of the overweight in the cans, and—

Q. But twice two are four, and so on your know.—A. Oh, yes, of course; but I am not prepared to say anything but that a very large quantity must have been thrown away.

Q. Now are these figures given an exaggeration?—A. An exaggeration? I said the exaggeration which I had reference to was this diagram, showing the way the canners were supposed to cut up their fish.

Q. But these statements by the figures?—A. Well, I think it quite possible the figures might be incorrect. I don't think you poorly paid officials always get the correct figures.

Q. Well, but these figures, I understand, are given the department by the Board of Trade themselves.—A. I don't think that (examining the returns in the report in question) all these are not the same as ours—certainly not.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, but if the Blue Book is correctly taken from authentic documents sent in would it be an exaggeration to state that there were 14,789,856 cans put up in 1889?—
A. I have already replied to that question.

Q. But is there an exaggeration there?—A. Yes, I think so, as I have pointed out, because there is not the actual waste as described in these illustrations (showing diagrams, pp. 66-7, report, Department of Fisheries, 1890).

Q. In your work as broker and agent, figures when added together are supposed to be correct, are they not?—A. Well, Mr. Chairman, excuse me; I think that a frivolous question.

Q. But I do not think so; these figures must be correct; you stated the weight of fish is about 8 pounds, and that about $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 cans are made from each fish?—A. Yes; but I say it is simply impossible to account for it like that, with the varying weight of sockeye, and the varying weight of the cans; you will not find two cans to agree. I will say this, Mr. Chairman, that if every salmon that is caught weighs 8 pounds, and every salmon makes five cans, your figures are probably correct.

Q. That is all right, sir; some make up 7 pounds and make only four cans.—A. Yes; but the loss would not be so great as shown.

Q. Then to the best of your knowledge the figures as shown are correct?—I have already replied to that same question, and if your stenographer will look back he will see I have replied.

Q. Oh, all right, sir, never mind; I think he has taken it down correctly. Now, Mr. Ward, you have here these statements, and which have been endorsed by almost every gentleman who has come before this Commission, that they are not incorrect, not exaggerated, and I must say that report was hurriedly written, and it was particularly in the fisheries interest as far as British Columbia was concerned.

Mr. WARD.—Mr. Chairman, are you giving evidence now?

Mr. WILMOT.—No, but I am simply stating that you must have been misled in stating that this Report was incorrect, exaggerated, etc.—now regarding the report of the British Columbia Board of Trade for 1891—as you have affixed your signature to that report I presume, that everything said in that report meets with your approval?—
A. Yes, certainly.

Mr. WILMOT.—Then I suppose you mean to say that you approve of this sentence? (Reading from British Columbia Board of Trade Report for 1891.)

“The Minister while favourable to the suggestion, did not find it convenient to carry it out, but instructed Mr. Wilmot, who is connected with the Fisheries Department to visit the province and give his views upon the question. These latter were obtained during a visit of two days on the Fraser River and were duly communicated to the Minister in a report since published, and which owing to the few hours in which the observations were made, was consequently full of inaccuracies, exaggerations, and statements of a generally misleading character throughout, and was therefore of little practical value. The indulgence in gratuitous and insulting reference to our cannery proprietors is a marked and regrettable feature of Mr. Wilmot's report.”

Well, sir; if any impartial gentleman will say that these statements are incorrect—are exaggerations?

Mr. WARD.—Well, I will say, Mr. Chairman that I am responsible for that report—I alone am responsible for that report, but Mr. Chairman, this was written upon your own report—I will read it, sir.

(Annual Report, Department of Fisheries, 1890, p. 67.)

“The question arises why should such a sacrifice of fish-food be allowed, to gratify the avarice of the packers and the fastidious taste of the wealthier class of consumers? Why not compel the canner to arrange his business so that this wanton waste of fish shall be largely diminished; to induce him to put up two classes of goods, equally suitable to the wants and means of the richer and poorer classes of consumers; or if this should be incompatible with the trade, why not convert this vast quantity of fish matter, now thrown away as offal, into usefulness of some kind, in the way of oil, or fertilizers of some description?”

Now, sir; I declare that paragraph to be positively misleading—and I may say, sir, in speaking up for the canners, that I have been one of the most persistent persons advocating this Commission and I would say that I am not doing it for personal ends at all, but for the benefit of the country.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, perhaps I am getting beyond the decorous duty of a chairman, but as one representing the Department, I feel bound to tell you that my information was gleaned from people on the ground, and as I say—on p. 67 of the report referred to:—

“I may here at the beginning state that I learned from the general expressions given by all parties that no serious objections were raised to the working of the present regulations.”

Mr. WARD.—I say, sir, that is an exaggeration.

Mr. WILMOT.—Excuse me, how could you say that was an exaggeration if you were not present?

Mr. WARD.—Because, sir, I know that no one could gather information on a two days' visit down the Fraser River.

Mr. WILMOT.—I gathered sufficient information.

Mr. WARD.—Then sir, you go on to say in your report:—(p. 67).

“It will nevertheless be understood that, with an industry so extensively carried on as the salmon canning business is, on the Fraser River, it would be extraordinary indeed not to find some grumbling, especially among the more selfish and grasping persons engaged in the trade.”

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, is there anything in that not correct?

Mr. WARD.—Yes, I have been connected with this matter for years—am I a greedy, grasping, selfish person?

Mr. WILMOT.—I do not know anything about that, sir.

Mr. WARD.—Then a little further on, you say:—

“It was universally admitted that this great natural product of the waters should be more carefully husbanded than hitherto, and that it was the bounden duty of the Fishery Department to surround the industry with such judicious regulations as would prevent this *extravagant* and *improvident* fishing—”

What extravagant and what improvident fishing, I would like to know? And then, again, on the next page of your report, you go on to say:—

“If the number of boats were to be increased because the number of salmon were less in any one year, it would simply mean that the department would be aiding the *avaricious* fishermen to destroy, in a greater degree, the reduced stock of salmon entering the river, whilst if the desire is to husband this industry, the true plan would be to reduce the number of boats for the season in which there might be a reduced run of fish in the river.”

“Aiding the *avaricious* fisherman!” I think, sir, it is most unfair to libel our good fishermen in that manner, and to abuse those who, to the credit of the community, have brought the salmon canning industry up to its present proportions.

Mr. WILMOT.—Regarding that paragraph you have just read, is that wrong on the part of a public officer who is interested in public affairs?

Mr. WARD.—Well, sir, I certainly think it is wrong to a class of persons who, to the credit of this country, have built up the industry to its present condition. That is all I have to say at present.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I was just going to say I would object to any further personalities.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I think this recrimination between the witness and Chairman is not right. I never in my life saw a Chairman doing like this. It ought not to be done. No Chairman should enter into a wrangle with a witness. Mr. Armstrong and I had a conversation about this on the first morning we started, and we thought you should not lead a witness up to answer certain questions in a certain way.

(From audience.)—Hear, hear.

Mr. WILMOT.—Order, order, please.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, Mr. Higgins, I may state that the question of offal was being discussed, and Mr. Ward stated that misleading statements were made as regards the amount of offal and the number of cans, and I merely asked Mr. Ward how it was so.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, are you going over the whole question again?

Mr. WILMOT.—No; we were simply finding out how correct these matters were. Now, to go on with the questions. Have you any idea if this offal can be made into any valuable product?

Mr. WARD.—No, sir.

Q. Do you believe it injurious to the river?—A. I believe it is not injurious.

Q. What is your belief as regards sanitary matters?—A. I think if it remains upon the shore it would be a nuisance and danger.

Q. In the interest of cannerymen and fishermen, would it not be advisable they should do away with it in some manner?—A. I don't understand your question, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. WILMOT.—The law says any one throwing offal in shall be liable to a fine.—A. I should say it is perfectly safe to throw it in deep water or in the channel of the river.

Q. Is it all thrown in the channel now?—A. Well, in some places I suppose it is not. If lodging on the banks of a slough, I would think it injurious to those who have to live near it.

Mr. WILMOT.—How about the limitation of nets; have you anything to say about them?

Mr. WARD.—I stated a short time since that in 1884, at a time when the system of licenses was practically unlimited, the number of cases packed on the Fraser River was 34,039 cases; that in consequence of depression in the markets generally there was no inducement to fish, either in 1884 or 1885, to the full extent of the canneries then existing. Eight canneries closed down in 1884, and six closed down in 1885. From the working of the system of licenses which has been in force during the last few years, I am satisfied that an unlimited system of licenses would not injure the river and would not lead to over-fishing, because I think, though fish are plentiful, which shows that there is no fear of over-fishing, at a time when there is no demand, or at any rate a poor demand for the product of the canneries, it would be impossible for any fairly well-equipped cannery to rely on less than twenty-five licenses, and even this would not be sufficient and often very inadequate owing to the variability of the run on the Fraser River.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Then should it be unlimited to cannerymen and fishermen?—A. If unlimited the river should be open to all.

Q. Whether a British subject or not?—A. Well, I had hardly thought of that; I think our fishermen went over to the Columbia River.

VOICE.—No.

Mr. WARD (continuing).—No? I would not care to express any opinion upon that, Mr. Chairman. I may say that licenses to fishermen are of no practical value unless there are canneries. What I mean is, if you do away with canneries only a very few fishermen indeed would be needed, because it would take very few to supply the local markets of British Columbia, and as for the freezing business, it is not of much account on the Fraser River.

Mr. WILMOT.—Q. And do you think that licenses should be given to all canneries erected?—A. Well, I do not see, Mr. Chairman, how you can prevent canneries being erected; I think those cannerymen engaged in business should certainly have protection, but I know of no law which would prevent any one building canneries on any river in the province.

Q. How protect them, then?—A. Well, I would make the licenses unlimited, because people would soon go out of business if there was no money in it.

Q. What do you think of the close season?—A. I think the close season as at present arranged is very satisfactory, because it practically means that Sunday is kept for a day of rest, but it is absolutely necessary for fishermen to go out, say at 6 o'clock, so as to be prepared with the raw product on Monday morning.

Q. You say Sunday should be kept?—A. I do not say that I do believe in Sabbath desecration by any means, but the fishing industry is very peculiar; it only lasts for

some weeks, and every latitude should be allowed to permit those engaged in it to carry on business without loss. To make the close time any time after 6 o'clock on Sunday would be very bad.

Q. And you think it correct as now?—A. Yes; I think it correct.

Q. And you think it injurious to trade if extended to 12 o'clock?—A. Yes; I think so; as regards the desecration of the Sabbath, I always understood it was the seventh day; I take it you mean Sunday, Mr. Chairman?

Q. Yes; I mean Sunday.—A. Well, I may say there would be far more desecration upon the Fraser River, if Sunday was totally observed as a day of rest; the men around the fishing camps are men of all nationalities and addicted to drinking and rioting, etc., and there would only be more of it if the time was extended.

Q. Then you think all Sunday should not be observed?—A. Yes; for the reasons I have just stated.

Q. What do you think of an annual close season?—A. I think it quite right and as regards the dates practically agreed upon by the fishermen, I hardly carry them in my head, but—

Q. But you think it advisable to have a close season, and the one now in operation is correct?—A. You say "in operation"?

Q. Well, I was just thinking that there was no established close season, is there Mr. Inspector?

Mr. McNAB (from audience).—No, sir; none at all.

Mr. WARD.—I would more readily defer to the experience and opinions of more practical cannery men on that subject than venture views of my own, but I might state that all the cannery men agreed upon this: That the fishing season should commence upon the 1st of March of each year, and that from the 1st March to the 25th August fishing to be allowed with not less than 5½ inch mesh; from 25th August to 25th September, both days inclusive, fishing should be allowed with nets not less than 7-inch mesh, and from 25th September to 1st November, fishing should be allowed with nets not less than 5½-inch mesh, and from 1st November to 1st March should be an absolute close season annually.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Yes; well these are similar suggestions that have been made on previous occasions, so you are all unanimous on that point. Have you any opinion to give on the artificial breeding of fish?—A. No; I have none at all.

Q. Then on the proportion of licenses, should they be transferable?—A. I do not think there should be trafficking in licenses such as have been described; *bona fide* fishermen or cannery men should have them.

Q. Do you think there should be any discrimination in the price paid for a license?—A. No; I am of opinion that if a license fee is charged it should be uniform.

Q. Now, I think we have gone through all the questions put to witnesses, if you have anything further?—A. Well, I was just going to suggest that in the opinion of some of us, seeing that the seat of Government is so far away, that an Advisory Board should be appointed by the Government similar to what prevails in the United States and so they could be well acquainted with all matters relating to the fisheries; we feel that from subordinate officers, poorly paid, the important duties cannot be carried out efficiently, and that is the main reason why we think an Advisory Board should be established.

Q. What number would you say for the Board?—A. I would say three or five, but I have not given any thought to that. I can assure the Commission that it is the unanimous wish of the cannery men who are engaged in this important industry to have the regulations placed upon a permanent basis, so that all engaged therein can make their calculations as to their operations for the season. I may state that for some time this has not been so, and such a state of things must cause those engaged to meet with loss, etc. We have many difficulties to contend with and especially with the matter of labour. It is difficult to obtain a class of white men such as is necessary in a cannery, because they will not come forward and offer themselves for the small wages for employment for such a short time; it is a fluctuating business and may terminate at any moment, especially if the run of fish are not satisfactory.

Q. Are you of the opinion that satisfactory regulations would maintain the run of fish?—A. Yes.

Q. Are you of opinion that over-fishing may injure a river?—A. I would say, yes, if proper restrictions were not made—if you allowed the fishing to be carried on by traps or other improper means of catching them; but I do not think anything like that is carried on on any of our rivers.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Do you know if Mr. Spratt made any really good guano while he was working at it?—A. Yes; he made very good guano. It was analyzed by parties in the old country, who got very good results from it. I know as a fertilizer it was very strong.

Q. Was it through him it was shipped to England?—A. Yes. I may say, Mr. Commissioners, in regard to this guano, it is most hard to get the guano away, because vessels persistently refuse to take it. Mr. Rithet can tell you that he has had tons of it at a time which he has not been able to get away. Then the freight is very high, and you get some £7 a ton in the old country.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Is that in its rough state?—A. No; this was in the prepared state.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. But when it was sent, did it arrive in good condition?—A. Well, no; not exactly. I may say it got mixed up on board the vessel with fish oil, etc., and it was in a bad state, but they got good results from it but a poor price.

Q. Have you heard of complaints of the effects of offal put in the river?—A. No. Well, I will say I have heard people at Ladner's Landing complain of the bad effects of the slough close by, but never knew that it was on account of the offal that was allowed to go into it.

Q. Have you ever been there in fishing season?—A. Oh, yes; hundreds of times.

Q. Have you ever seen anything there on the water?—A. No; it is sluggish water. There is a slough at the Bon Accord cannery, but I have never in my life seen anything of the kind.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Mr. Ward, how long have you been a close observer of fishing operations on the Fraser River?—A. Ever since 1871 or 1872.

Q. Have you been connected with the industry during that period?—A. Yes, I have.

Q. Then you would be in a position to give a pretty good idea as to the permanency of the fisheries. I think for a time there were no regulations for carrying on the fisheries, except what canners might have made themselves. Now, has there been a decrease of salmon on account of those conditions?—A. No. On the contrary, I think they have increased. In 1891 the pack shows it was say, 1,000 cases more than the year previous, and other years in the same way.

Q. Then you think fish are not decreasing?—A. Not decreasing; and I may say I quite think the close season is sufficient to protect the fish. The Chairman, if he had any idea of the multitudes that come up, he would not fear the diminution of fish in the river.

MR. WILMOT.—We have heard the more fish are caught the better they will breed. (Laughter.) A. I am glad to hear it.

MR. HIGGINS.—I would like to read a couple of extracts from Mr. Mowat's report, fisheries statements, 1890, pp. 173-4 :—

"The run of fish on the Fraser River commenced nearly a month later than usual, and although very few canners had made preparations for a large pack they entertained fears of being unable to fill their orders, as the boats during the month of July, which is usually the best month for fishing, only averaged ten to twelve fish each per day. This continued until about the 10th of August, when the largest body of fish that is known to have ascended it for some years reached the river, raising the average catch per boat

from 300 to 500 fish per day. So sudden was this enormous run of fish that before canners had time to order their boat hands to stop fishing the canneries were overstocked, and in some instances fish had to be thrown away. This large run continued until the last of August, when the canners completed their packs, and it is safe to say that quite as many fish ascended the river as in 1889, except that the run did not last quite so long.

"On the Skeena River the run was exceedingly large. Canners used all the tins they had on hand, and only worked a portion of their boats, which averaged 500 to 700 fish per day. The Standard Packing Company, while packing their last 2,000 cases, kept their cannery supplied with four boats."

That is a correct statement of things in 1890, Mr. Ward.

Mr. WARD.—Well, no; not in my experience have I known of any quantity of fish thrown away; of course, sometimes when a few fish on the wharf get spoilt it might be necessary to throw them away; but not in any quantity, I am sure. I had not known of that report or I would have contradicted it.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, you think from statistics that fish are increasing; if I was giving evidence I would attribute it to the fish hatchery.

Mr. WARD.—Yes; but Mr. Mowat was connected with the fish hatchery, and of course would be more in a position to speak of that matter.

Mr. WARD.—Have you anything more, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. WILMOT.—Nothing more, sir.

Mr. WARD thereupon left the witness stand.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I would like, Mr. Chairman, that subpoenas be issued for the following gentlemen: A. W. Smith, M.P.P., A. J. McLellan, J. L. Raymond, Capt. J. Irvine and Hon. P. O'Reilly.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, you must remember, gentlemen, the question of expenditure comes up in this; if this member of Parliament comes he will perhaps want some indemnity.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I should like Mr. Smith to be asked; I don't think the question of indemnity will be raised.

After a short informal discussion, during which several gentlemen present agreed to see the other gentlemen and ask them to attend and give evidence. A subpoena was issued for the attendance of His Honour Judge O'Reilly.

The Commission adjourned at 1 p.m., to resume at the same place at 2.30 p.m.

Afternoon Session.

VICTORIA, 3rd March, 1892.

The Commission was convened at 2.30 p.m.

Present; Mr. S. Wilmot, presiding; Mr. Sheriff Armstrong and Mr. Secretary Winter.

ROBERT PATTERSON RITHET, a native of Scotland, residing in British Columbia for 29 years, a merchant doing business in Victoria, was duly sworn.

Mr. WILMOT.—Now, sir, if you are desirous of submitting anything to the Commission in reference to this question of the fisheries of British Columbia?—A. I would prefer to be asked the usual questions.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, the first on the list is the official investigation—what have you to say in regard to that—its effects on the river—for sanitary purposes, etc.?

Mr. RITHET.—Would it not be better to locate me and my interests in the business more intimately to begin with?

Mr. WILMOT.—Yes.

Mr. RITHET.—I am interested directly and indirectly in this industry—I have been in business since 1876 as agent and owner. I have interests in the Delta, Laidlaw & Co., Wellington, and Harlock canneries on the Fraser River, and the Cascade on the Naas and Standard on the Skeena, and am also agent for Cunningham on the Skeena and a syndicate in Lowe Inlet.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Does this apply to the English syndicate?—A. No. We have simply a local syndicate—we do not call in any outside capital.

Q. Then it is a combined business both on the Fraser River and Skeena—your position is then both owner and agent?—A. Yes sir; with regard to the offal question—it has been frequently discussed and we have generally been guided by the information given us by practical men—that is the managers of the canneries, and we have seriously considered the question, both for our own interests and in the interests of every one else who would be likely to be effected. We would be only too glad if we could without very serious loss and inconvenience dispose of this offal in such a way as to make it neither injurious to fish life in the river or disagreeable to our neighbours. I have always been strongly of opinion that if it were possible to dispose of it by utilizing it in some way it ought to be done, and when the Government said that it would have to be disposed of and the representations which were made were so strong in favour of making it an article of commerce instead of throwing it away, I considered that our canneries on the river should make efforts to dispose of it by utilizing it, and in consequence a fish oilery which was not working up to that time, was combined with our institutions to a certain extent, and we utilized it last summer.

Q. Is that the one opposite the Delta?—A. Just opposite the Delta—it is the only one on the river. The result I know sufficiently definitely now to say it is going to cost us a loss of between \$2,000 and \$3,000 for this season. We have disposed of the oil at the best price we could get, but we have not yet succeeded in finding a market for the guano, and I am able over a written correspondence with our people in England to ship some of it there and I do not know of any other out-let for it, except the Sandwich Islands, where they are using a good deal of fertilizer, but though I have sent samples of it down there, and from the oilery at Nellersloo, for which we are also agents, and where they extract herring oil and dry the refuse for fertilizer, I find the Sandwich Islanders prefer the bone dust manure to the fish guano, even at half price—I may say, and in consequence I am come to a complete standstill to dispose of the product. If we have to put it in—

Q. Where is Nellersloo?—A. In Alaska. I may say last summer we sent a ship to Nellersloo and we loaded her with herring oil and guano, and though the cargo of oil and guano arrived in England in good order and quite up to samples that had been sent, as yet there is no sale for it and very little hope of disposing of it. I have also discussed very thoroughly with my own people the disposal—assuming that the oilery is a failure—what is next best to be done, and I think I am willing to agree with them that if the offal is deposited in the current off-shore it would cease to be objectionable to anybody to any extent. Last season, I made a point of going through all the canneries just as they were closing, and I was very gratified to find that even the canneries which were not disposing of the offal as our canneries were, were very sweet and clean and that there were no signs of the offal remaining after a day or two, and that no injurious effects were caused, and up to the present time I do not think it has had any injurious effect. In the last two years, as far as our experience has gone, the supply of fish has been greater than it has ever been—of course, this next year we expect an off-year and hardly look for any great run this year.

Q. Then every effort has been put forth to utilize this offal, and it has been unsuccessful?—A. Yes.

Q. And you have had but one year's experience?—A. Yes; that is all.

Q. And you are satisfied that nothing further could be done to overcome this great difficulty between the people and the canners?—A. Well, it perhaps could be done with greater expenditure of capital. We were the only one on the river who kept up to the regulations. I don't think the Government will indemnify us.

MR. WILMOT.—Perhaps the Government will put it to your credit as regards past years. (Laughter.)

MR. ARMSTRONG.—Mr. Rithet, do you know the law has been in force for many years prohibiting you from casting in this offal?

MR. RITHET.—Well, but if we get the Government to pass an Order in Council, it will override that law.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, you will find that it is not included in their power.

Mr. WILMOT.—I do not think there has ever been an Order in Council freeing the river from the operations of that law. There may be, but I do not know of them.

Mr. RITHET.—Well, there must be an Order in Council, I think, because we were told the regulations would be enforced as heretofore.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, you may consult your legal advisers; there is the Act. If any one complains, you can be fined every time.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Then if a fine is inflicted, it is then the privilege of the Minister to remit that fine; but as regards this disposal of offal, you have found it unprofitable?—A. Yes; and I combine the experience of others. Mr. Spratt and others. It is not a new thing.

Q. We have, during the sittings of this Commission, drawn attention to an article appearing in the *Colonist* lately on this very question. Samples were sent down from here to the Ontario Department of Agriculture, and they make these conclusions. Samples were sent first, and Professor James is rather an eminent scientist and has analyzed these samples, and winds up with these conclusions:—

Mr. RITHET.—Does he refer to fish offal or to some others, because dog-fish oil is a separate matter and is worked here successfully?

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh, no. These were samples of fish offal sent down from here. Now, these are his conclusions:—

“From the consideration of the whole question, I am of the opinion that the manufacture of the refuse into fertilizer is strongly to be recommended, because:

“1st. It will thus utilize a bye-product that otherwise is a total loss.

“2nd. It will prevent the waters from being contaminated.

“3rd. Its proper management must tend towards a more healthful surrounding.

“4th. Its return to the soils of the farm will partly off-set the waste of our cities by sewerage carried to the lakes and rivers.

“5th. If properly handled it will pay well.

“From the great importance of this question to the health of the community, the welfare of the fishing industry and the progress of agriculture, I have endeavoured to reply at this length.”

Mr. RITHET.—Well, it depends upon localities a great deal; we are handicapped with new soil, which is already very rich, and it does not require fertilizers. I would like to hand in a document on this matter.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. And then it is said to be worth about \$34 in Ontario?—A. Yes; and it would cost us two cents a pound for freight, and my opinion is that it cannot be managed without a loss, and a very serious loss.

Q. Well, I merely bring it to your attention to show that it has been tried and samples sent and analyzed, and the Professor states emphatically that for the health of the community, etc., it might be preferred if manufactured into oil, etc.—A. Well, that may come in a future time, but at present I do not think it could be done.

Q. At the present time the Government is being importuned as to the effects of this offal in fouling the water, impairing the health of the community, etc., and the Government is naturally anxious to find out the facts.—A. Well, I am sure we will only be too happy to help if we only know how. I may mention that I have been up the river on the Harrison River to Lilloet, etc., and the offensiveness raised by offal is not to be mentioned with the effects of dead fish, etc.

Q. Yes; well while this matter is before the Board it is necessary to get all information; but to off-set that I may mention, Mr. Rithet, that the municipality at Delta say that it is only since canneries have been established that they have felt effects from sickness, etc., brought on by the quantity of offal going into the water and fouling it; they have had some sixteen cases of sickness and some deaths. I mention this to show you that the Government have the matter presented to them in different ways. And while some people say it has no effect, we have these people presenting petitions to the effect

that this refuse has created dysentery and typhoid fever, and its lodgment there was continually throwing up the microbes that produce the disease. These are their statements, and when these statements are made it is the duty of the Government to investigate the matter.—A. In reference to that, Mr. Chairman, I would say that the Delta Landing, during four or five years, has had a sort of boom; there are four or five times the people that were there, and there is no provision made for drainage. We have typhoid fever in Victoria and Nanaimo and other places, and none of these people can say that it has been caused by refuse from fish, etc., and I do not see how these people can say it has been caused by offal from fish. We know very well that typhoid appears in the mountains as well as everywhere else.

Q. Then you are of opinion that if it were to be thrown in mid-river you would accede to that demand?—A. I am quite willing to help to make arrangements or do anything to do away with these complaints and troubles, if possible.

Q. Then the fishermen complain that it goes down the river and passes out at Gurry Bush and gets into their nets, the heads and tails?—A. Well, if canneries were not there the fishermen would not be either; a complaint of that kind should be put on one side, because if canneries were not there the fishermen would not be wanted. I am sure, and I speak not only for myself, but brother cannerymen, that they will be only too glad to help meet the wishes of the Government, but they have interests as well as other people, and they feel they should be respected.

Q. Well, there is another difficulty; there are statutory enactments in all other parts of the Dominion against this practice, and if you are allowed to do it here others will say, why should we not, too?—A. Well, we contend here that the fish are quite different to what they are in the east.

Q. But both make offal, don't they?—A. Yes; but the conditions are quite different. I think the saw-dust is much worse.

Q. Well, that is one of the questions we have also on our list?—A. But we have experienced no diminution in the supply.

Q. Then you say that experiments with offal in making oil, has not been successful?—A. No; perhaps it might hereafter, but of that I don't know.

Q. What was the oil you made used for?—A. For lumbering and skidding purposes.

Q. Is much used for that purpose?—A. Yes; but a good deal of dog-fish oil. We get 35 cents for dog-fish, and 25 cents for offal oil.

Q. And from a sanitary point of view you think the deposition of offal non-injurious?—A. That is my opinion.

Q. Even if lodged along the shore?—A. I think it should be put in the current.

Q. And if along the shore it might get putrid?—A. Yes; if exposed to showers and sun. We never see any of it here. We get logs from the Fraser River and other things.

Q. But a log would not form any quantity of offal; offal would not float so easily. You think offal then not injurious; you think saw-dust quite injurious?—A. No; I do not say so. I have heard of that, but I know nothing about it.

Q. On the limitation of nets, what do you think of that question?—A. I think the canneries which employ a large amount of capital, that they should have licenses of their own; they should have at least 25 boats to each cannery.

Q. Twenty-five to sustain their industry?—A. Yes; 20 were not enough and it only forces us to go outside and adopt certain measures which I would rather not do. If we were allowed 25 boats, if necessary, we could go outside, but I think 25 should be given, and I would decidedly object to any one getting licenses but *bona fide* fishermen.

Q. Could you briefly state why 25 would be sufficient to run a cannery?—A. Yes; because the capacity of a cannery is about 1,000 cases a day, and if 25 boats catch an average of 100 or 150 fish it would be about sufficient; they catch from 100 to 200, or 300 sometimes.

By Mr. Wilnot:

Q. What is the average catch of a boat during the season, have you any idea?—A. No; not at all. I have no figures.

Q. 1,000 fish a day; how many cases would that cover?—A. Well, I have no evidence on that point from actual experience, but when we are getting over 100 to the boat we can run to the full capacity if we get twenty-five boats.

Q. How often a day would that boat run?—A. Twice a day; two shifts. I would not care to make any statement of the practical part of it, because I have not had much to do with it; we get our telegraphic account so many fish to the boat, &c.

Q. When you say twenty-five boats would be sufficient, what would you consider the average output from those twenty-five boats, about 15,000 cases?—A. Yes; with the exception of Mr. Ewen's cannery the capacity is about similar for all.

Q. Well, I notice from the returns from the Fraser River during the past year that the average from all the canneries would produce about 14,000 cases, taking them all the way through in 1890; the returns for 1891 are not in yet.—A. The returns of 1891 will not average over 7,000, I don't think, not on the Fraser River.

Q. Were the boats more than twenty-five to each cannery?—A. We used to get many fish out from Point Roberts.

Q. Yes; but there was some arrangement made with regard to an increase in boats; did you get any additional ones?—A. Well, no I don't think so; Mr. Laidlaw could tell you more about that.

Q. And they only produced 7,000 cases in 1891?—A. That is all.

Q. Are you of opinion that fishermen should all get licenses?—A. Yes; I do not see how that can be very well prevented.

Q. Every fisherman and British subject should get a license?—A. Yes; so long as he uses it himself.

Q. And with twenty-five boats to each cannery, would many fish be bought from fishermen at all?—It would depend upon the season; we have to make contracts beforehand, and if the season is too great and we get too many fish, we have to lay off our boats and take the outside fish.

Q. I might say to you that is one of the greatest complaints of the fishermen. They say with the present disposition of boats, whitemen all told, are only able to get about fifty licenses, and the consequence is they feel they are shut out of ordinary traffic which they feel entitled to, and if canneries got twenty-five boats they would think themselves shut out entirely from fishing operations. I merely mention it to show you.—A. Of course they have the same rights to advocate their interests as we do.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Do you think each cannery should have the same number of licenses?—A. Yes; I think so, except Ewens', I think all the canneries are about the same.

Q. And that argument that has been put forth that it would be unfair to allow boats to new canneries; you forsake that, do you?—A. Well, we felt a few years ago that many of us would have to get out of it; there has been no profit in the business this year, and perhaps next year it will not be better, and many might have to give it up.

Q. And then you see we have other complaints that persons come here under inducements to fish, etc., and then cannot get licenses when they get here, and so with twenty-five licenses to canners there would be further ground for complaint, for less outside fishermen would be employed; I merely mention this to you.—A. Of course we realize the position we would be in if we could not get licenses; we would probably be obliged to shut up; that is the experience on the Columbia River, where they have had to meet high demands of fishermen; many canneries have had to shut up.

Q. Then you think every British subject and every fisherman should have a license?—A.—Yes; and I think Indians should have licenses as well as other people.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Oh, yes; if they provide themselves with a boat and net—certainly they should get licenses.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q.—You are connected with companies engaged on Northern rivers as well as on the Fraser River—on those rivers, where engaged, do you use seine fishing as well as drifting?—A.—Well, I could scarcely answer that question—I think we had to out at sea—they don't fish in the river but they do outside.

Q. Are you interested in Gardner Inlet or Nimkish?—A. No.

Q. Are you in Lowe's Inlet—I believe seining is carried on there wholly?—A. I think so—I am not an owner there—I am but an agent.

Q. And seining is not allowed on Naas?—A. No; I think not.

Q. You have no practical experience of the result of fishing with a seine and drift net?—A. None.

Q. From what you know would you consider it advisable to allow seine fishing in mouths of rivers—Fraser, Skeena, and Naas?—A. I would rather not express an opinion, because I scarcely know the difference between the two nets.

Q. What about the close season?—A. Well, as far as I am concerned—I speak as a canneryman—I think it would make but little difference from July—

Q. I mean especially the weekly close season?—A. Oh, the weekly season—I do not think it makes any difference—I think it is all right—if made to 12 o'clock I think the fishermen would go out anyway.

Q. Well, the same question comes in—you see statutory enactments in the eastern provinces all provide for the Sunday being kept and if not kept, here—A. It is a different country, sir, altogether—the habits of fish are different and the inhabitants of the country are different too.

Q. Well, you see, Mr. Rithet, the Government has to make these laws and to meet the demands from other provinces.—A. Well, I understand it simply as a matter of expediency—the sailing ship has to keep her sails up during Sunday and the fireman to keep his fire going, &c.

Q. And you think it unjust if not working on Sunday?—A. Yes; I think the men would be longer idle and would not like it.

Q. Was not the close time before on Sunday night?—A. Yes; it was—but I do not think it acted as well as now.

Q. Then there are people who think Sunday should be kept?—A. Well, that is a matter of conscience. I think the present close season is all right.

Q. And the annual close season?—A. Well, we don't care about that as long as we are allowed to fish for sockeyes—I don't think it would matter.

Q. I think the previous gentleman spoke of a close season from 1st November to 1st March? I think he said with a 7 inch mesh from 25th September to 1st November—then why vary from 25th September to 1st November?—A. That is the coho run—we packed them for some time but did not find them profitable.

Q. And from 1st March to 25th August you fish—you care nothing about a close season for any fish after that?—A. No.

Q. Well, I think that would meet the public view, but you ask another close season between 25th September and 1st November?—A. Well, that is a run of small fish—we canned these at one time but it did not pay.

Q. What are your views in regard to the hatchery?—A. Well, my opinion is it cannot be a disadvantage and it must be an advantage in keeping up the supply.

Q. What are your views in regard to fees on licenses—should all be alike? (Mr. Higgins arrived and took his seat at the Board)—A. I think so—on a river like the Fraser River where there is the benefit of a hatchery the fees are properly higher than on other rivers where the Government go to no expense in maintaining a hatchery.

Q. Then you consider the hatchery has been of benefit to the extent of between \$5 and \$20?—A. Well, I think our license fees were increased on that account.

Q. Anything else, sir? We have gone over last year—A. Well, I have read evidence given at New Westminster and I draw the conclusion that very erroneous ideas of people prevail there, and also on the part of the Commissioners as to profits derived from the canning business.

MR. WILMOT.—I do not think there was any such evidence given us there?

MR. ARMSTRONG.—There was a statement that cannerymen could make \$75,000 by putting up a cannery for \$5,000 but that was a mistake of the press.—A. I was just going to say that this industry is one that requires the most careful attention and nursing. I think of late years 8 and 10 canneries have gone to the wall. The Alaska canneries have had great effect upon us—this last year I do not think the profits will be anything at all—in fact, a perfect loss.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I would just like to read this extract from the Departmental Report for 1890, bearing on this subject—(Fisheries Statements, 1890, p. 175.) Mr. Thomas Mowat, then Inspector of Fisheries for this province, says:—

"The canners have reaped a rich harvest during the last four years. If their own statements in this respect can be relied upon, each cannery made from \$15,000 to \$75,000 per season; still, with all these advantages, they do not appear satisfied, because the regulations framed by the Department did not allow them to fish just as they wished, regardless of future results."

Q. Had you seen that before, Mr. Rithet, do you agree with it?—A. Oh, yes; I have seen it often, and I saw it in evidence given before, and I wish to correct it, because I am in a position both as a canner and agent to know the truth in that regard, and I am safe in saying too that you have had no man before you who could say that any employee never got his pay—if any loss it has been borne by the owners.

Q. Are fish paid for—when?—A. At the end of the season. I may say that I have often advanced money to pay off the man's debts.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes, I must say Chinamen and others always get their money.

Mr. RITHET.—There is another question I would wish to speak of namely, Chinese labour—if we had not Chinamen here we could not carry on business at all—it is impossible to get white labour for the short time we require them, and the work besides is such that it does not require able bodied men to do it—Chinamen do it very well and women and boys, and I do not see how the canners should be blamed for employing Chinese labour.

Mr. WILMOT.—The statement made to us is that though 100 or more are employed in a cannery only 8 or 10 of them would be Whites and the rest Indians and Chinamen.

—A. Yes, that is quite right. I may say we have tried to do with boys and I know that Mr. Spencer went to great trouble one year to employ white labour but he found it could not be carried out and had to give it up.

Q. Is not all the labour arrangements done through one Boss Chinaman?—A. Yes, of late years.

Q. What price is paid the Chinaman boss per case?—A. About 35 cents, I think it is—but the Chinese labour is but a small matter—we have the tins and putting them up, etc., I think 35 cents is about the price, we have to pay a little more up north.

Q. Is there anything else you would wish to state?—A. No, I think that is about all.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Thank you, sir—we are much obliged to you.

The following copy of a memorandum on the canning and fishing industries was handed in by Mr. Rithet at the conclusion of his evidence.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CANNERS' ASSOCIATION.

GENTLEMEN,—Your Committee to whom was referred at the meeting of your Association, held on the 13th inst., the Order in Council respecting the disposal of fish offal, approved 7th November, 1890, and also the Order of same date, prohibiting the use of seines for the purpose of catching salmon, and existing regulations generally, beg to report thereon as follows:—

That before taking up the special subjects referred to in the Order in Council, your Committee wish to call attention to some of the other existing regulations, which, in the opinion of your Committee, are framed in such a manner as to seriously jeopardise the successful continuance of the business of salmon canning in this province—a business which is already among the most important, and one which, under judicious treatment by the Government, should continue to hold a prominent place in its material development, alike profitable to those who have embarked their capital, the Province and the Dominion.

Limit of Licenses, Fraser River.

The most prominent among the regulations referred to, is the construction placed by the Hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, upon the recommendations of the canners
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through the Board of Trade, as to restricting the number of fishing licenses on the Fraser River, which, in the opinion of your Committee, is not only unjust to those who through many difficulties, and under great disadvantages, have for many years, during the early history of the industry, followed the business; but also to those who have more recently invested their capital therein, inasmuch as the number of boats allowed each existing cannery has been reduced to provide licenses for newly established canneries.

That, in the opinion of your Committee, the attention of the Hon. the Minister should be specially drawn to the serious phase of the question of limiting the number of licenses for canneries upon the basis above referred to, which is contrary to the intention of your Association, and the Board of Trade, in recommending that licenses on the Fraser River should be limited in number. If the present system is to be continued, many, if not all the existing canneries will have so few boats that they will be unable to continue their business with profit. It was never intended that the licenses allowed existing canneries, which had already invested large capital in the business, were to be withdrawn from them and given to new canneries, and we feel certain that, on the Minister's attention being called to this great injustice, he will at once admit it and provide a remedy. Your Committee advise that this Association recommend that the Hon. the Minister be requested to fix a minimum number of boats to which each cannery can be reduced, and ask that this be not less than twenty-five (25) for existing canneries.

The number of licenses allotted to the fishermen, for the fresh fish market and freezing establishments is out of proportion, and in excess of actual requirements for the purposes for which they are allotted, and unless the fish taken by them can be sold to the canneries, there would be no market for them. Freezing establishments, at present allowed ten licenses each, do not use for their own purposes more than the catch of three or four boats during the sockeye run, and the excess is sold to the canneries, thus showing that while cannery do not get as many licenses as are necessary for their business, more licenses are allotted to outside fishermen and freezing establishments which are used simply for speculative purposes. It must be admitted that cannery, who have thousands of dollars at stake, and give employment to 300 or 400 people in each cannery during the fishing season, are not fairly treated when they are made to pay more for their licenses than the individual fishermen, who are allowed to dispose of their fish for the same purpose, and whose entire outfit does not exceed \$100 to \$200.

Seines.

Your Committee advise that the Hon. the Minister be recommended to exempt all localities from the order prohibiting the use of seines, where fishing can be only prosecuted by means of seines.

The localities where seines are at present in use are the following, viz.:

Alert Bay, Smith's Inlet, Lowe Inlet,

and in which localities seines have always been used, without (so far as experience has shown) injury to the supply, as can be readily verified by the quantities packed during the last few years, which compare favourably with the quantity packed during the first years of packing canned salmon.

There are many other bays and inlets in which fishing can be done only by means of seines, and which should also be exempted from the restriction, upon it being shown to the fishery inspector that the fish supply would not be injured thereby.

License Fees.

Your Committee are of the opinion that it would be more just if a uniform license fee on the Fraser River of \$20 per boat per year was charged to all who were allowed to fish, whether for the purpose of canning, or for sale as fresh salmon, instead of the present mode of discriminating against cannery. Your Committee recommend that no change should be made in the license fee charged to northern canneries.

Close Time.

It is strongly recommended that no change be made in the regulation of last year regarding this, viz.: from 6 a. m. Saturday to 6 p. m. Sunday.

Salmon Offal.

Your Committee has very carefully considered the report from the Hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries of the 25th October, 1890, and also an extract from a report by S. Wilmot, Esq., upon which is based the order of the Hon. the Privy Council of the 7th of November, 1890, to the effect that the provision in the Fisheries Act relating to the disposal of fish offal shall be enforced in future.

It is therein stated that an enquiry made by direction of the Hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries into the manner in which fishing in the Fraser River was prosecuted, elicited the facts that "an enormous quantity of valuable fish food which by economical measures could be utilized, was wasted by the prevalent and improvident practice of using for canning purposes only a certain portion of the salmon caught and throwing the remainder away," and in support of which Mr. Wilmot's report is appended.

The Committee cannot but express surprise at this statement. As a matter of fact, all the portions of salmon, with the exception of the heads, tails, entrails and offal, are preserved in cans, and no portions valuable as food, which can be economically used, are wasted. The canners are anxious and interested to prepare for market as much of the fish as possible; but in doing so, special care must be observed in regard to maintaining the highest quality, in order to compete with the Columbia River and other American salmon-packing localities on this coast.

For many years after the commencement of the industry in British Columbia, the quality of our product was considered by the English buyers, who are the principal customers, inferior to that of our neighbours shipped from this coast, but by the exercise of extreme care in the careful selection and packing of the fish, the canners have the satisfaction of knowing that it now compares favourably with any of the salmon packed on this coast.

We are not prepared to dispute, nor do we doubt that it is quite possible—and probable—that in some countries, the heads, tails, entrails, and offal, might be utilized for various purposes, such as fertilizers, or oil might be extracted therefrom, but in this new country, where labour is difficult to obtain, and very expensive, such enterprises cannot yet be carried on with profit. There is no local demand for fertilizers, our lands being only recently cultivated, and so rich that fertilizers would prove detrimental, by encouraging a growth which is already considered too rank. Several attempts have been made in this province to utilize fish offal for making manures and oil for export, and although the needful capital and experience have been supplied, they have invariably resulted in failure because the prices obtainable left a serious loss, and the business had to be abandoned.

The committee, therefore, repeat that no portions of the fish which can be profitably used are wasted, and regret to find that Mr. Wilmot should commit himself to such a sweeping statement about this, as that contained in his report to the hon. the minister, without having had an opportunity of forming a more correct opinion than could be formed during his short and hurried visit last year.

With reference to the injurious results which must ensue to the salmon industry from a continuance of the throwing of offal into the river, the committee observe:—

That the practice of throwing the offal into the river has been followed since the commencement of salmon preserving in the province—more than 15 years ago—and no injurious effects upon the supply of fish can be observed. The supply of salmon, if anything (see official returns), has been more abundant during the last two years than in previous years, and the reports from the interior spawning grounds, tend to confirm the assertion that fish are as plentiful as ever.

It may also be stated as a fact, that myriads of scavenger fish frequent the rivers in which salmon fishing is prosecuted, and are observed at each cannery greedily

devouring the offal (with the exception of the heads and tails) and in a few hours after offal is deposited in the water, scarcely any trace of it can be detected, and it is further claimed by fishermen and others acquainted with the habits of salmon of the Pacific waters, that a very large proportion of the salmon which pass up the rivers and reach the spawning grounds, do not return to the sea, and thus the whole fish, instead of the waste parts, which are not utilized for canning, become offal, and a greater cause of pollution of the water than the practice complained of.

After careful consideration, it is the opinion of the committee that the suspension during last year of the provision of the law relating to the disposal of fish offal, made on the strength of representations of the provincial secretary and the canners, was nothing more than according justice to one of the most important industries in the province, and since then no good grounds have been shown why the suspension should not be continued and if the question were placed before the public for endorsement, our opinion is, suspension of the restriction would be approved of.

The Hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries states that the Act "provides an inexpensive and comparatively easy mode of compliance with this requirement of the law, by providing that such offal may be buried ashore beyond high water mark, or dropped into perforated boxes under the stage heads or wharves in such manner as to prevent them from being washed into the stream."

The Committee observe in regard to this, that the first mode is impracticable, and were the circumstances known, such a statement would not have been made, for the reason that, in regard to the Fraser River, the lands along the tidal waters—and within miles of the canneries, are below the level of high water mark, and in order to exclude water it is necessary to resort to dyking; and in regard to the northern rivers, the banks are rocky, and few places could be found where excavations or pits could be made at reasonable cost.

As to perforated boxes—the plan, which was tried two years ago, has many objections, principally on sanitary grounds, as after a time the deposit becomes so vast that it is not fully covered by water, and the decomposing of so much matter becomes so offensive and unwholesome, that dwellings in the vicinity are not habitable.

The Committee cannot do otherwise than conclude that the Hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, will, upon proper representations being made, order that the regulations above referred to, shall not be enforced, and are disposed to hope that, in imposing restrictions upon this industry, care will be taken not to make them of such a nature as to cause the industry to be hampered to such an extent as would place those engaged in the business in the waters of this province at a disadvantage in competing with canneries following the same business on this coast in the rivers and waters of the United States, where the greatest freedom from all regulations of a restrictive nature is allowed.

The Committee infer from the arguments of the Hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and the Superintendent, that they assume that the habits of the salmon of these waters are similar to those of the salmon of the Atlantic rivers, and draw wrong conclusions in consequence.

It is, however, claimed by all those who have considered the matter on this coast, that the habits are entirely different, as the rivers which they frequent are longer, greater in volume of water, and lower in temperature, all important influences, we respectfully submit, on the habits of the salmon.

From the imperfect knowledge shown by the statements now under consideration, your Committee think that the Department should appoint a board of resident commissioners who would study the habits of the salmon frequenting the rivers of this coast, and acquire accurate and reliable information for the guidance of the Department, in order that no unnecessary or oppressive regulations may be imposed, while due care may be taken to prevent the exhaustion of the supply of salmon.

Addendum.

The Committee append an article from the "Oregonian," dated 1st February, headed "Salmon Legislation," which was brought under their notice after they had

completed the report now submitted. In it are several points of interest and to which the attention of the Hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries should be directed.

Regarding the pollution of rivers, reference is made to the practice of depositing saw-dust, which is condemned, and concerning which legislation is recommended, but action in regard to *Fish Offal which is deposited in the Columbia River*, is not suggested.

The nationality of fishermen is another important matter, to which the attention of the Hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries should be particularly directed.

Imperfect knowledge of the habits of salmon of this coast (to which allusion is made in the accompanying report) apparently is not peculiar to this province, as may be gathered from a perusal of the enquiry reported in the extract attached. The most diverse opinions are expressed by fish experts, as to the habits of salmon, so much so, that the joint committee from the Oregon and Washington Legislatures decided that the United States Fish Commissioner should be asked to acquire accurate information regarding the habits of salmon in the Columbia River, and which supports the recommendation of your committee in regard to the appointment of a board of commissioners in this province for the same purpose.

In conclusion, the recommendations of your committee in the foregoing, stated briefly, are as follows :—

Licenses.

That on the Fraser River, not less than twenty-five boats shall be allotted to each cannery now in operation ; that the fees on the Fraser River shall be uniform, viz. : \$20 for each boat engaged in fishing, without reference to the disposal of salmon ; and that for northern localities, the fees shall be as heretofore, viz. : \$5 for each boat. Close time to be continued from 6 a.m. Saturday to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Seines.

That the restrictions as to the use of seines shall not be universal, certain waters to be exempted.

Offal.

That the suspension of regulation as to the disposal of offal shall be continued.

Commission.

That a board of fishery commissioners, resident in the province, shall be appointed by the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. P. RITHET,
M. T. JOHNSTON,
For Selves and Committee.

VICTORIA, 4th February, 1891.

SALMON LEGISLATION.

(EXTRACT FROM PORTLAND "OREGONIAN.")

Further Testimony before the Joint Committee. Protection to Small Fish. Piscatorial Experts Disagree on the Question of Forbidding the Capture of Salmon Under Eight Pounds in Weight.

During the forenoon session of the Joint Committee on Fisheries at the Portland hotel yesterday, quite a number of interesting and instructive facts were learned regarding the traits and mode of living of the Columbia River salmon, particularly the chinook, steelhead and blueback species.

State Senator Luce acted as chairman, and Senator Fulton served in the capacity of examiner.

L. T. Barin, an expert on salmon, was first called upon, and stated that his experience covered a period of thirty years.

Not a Protectionist.

"I am not particularly opposed to catching the small salmon," he said, "even though they may be chinook, for the reason that the smaller species are almost invariably males and although not full grown, perform the functions of grown salmon, and die in the vicinity of the spawning grounds.

"In my opinion the scarcity of females is due to the fact that the latter do not mature so rapidly as males, and die before growing to any great size. Some two years ago, I offered a reward of \$20 for every female of the smaller species, and only found one weighing about nine and one-half pounds. I firmly believe that these small salmon are prematurely matured, and the difference in color can only be accounted for by simply pointing to the trout, whose colour changes according to its years. The chinook salmon do not return to the sea after spawning unless the latter process occur very close to salt water. After making their way up the river for hundreds of miles without food it is impossible for them to return, and in consequence they die off by thousands. The small ones come back dead the same as the large, and it is for this reason that I do not favour forbidding the capture of salmon under eight pounds. *Laws should be passed preventing the dumping of sawdust in our streams and also the use of racks.* The fishery laws of Oregon and Washington should be similar, and the season should not commence until April 10th or 15th."

Concerning Fish Nets.

J. W. Cook informed the Committee that he had had a great deal of practical experience in catching and handling Columbia River salmon of all varieties.

"Meshes not less than eight and one-half inches should be permitted by law," said Mr. Cook, "and although many fishermen may not agree with me on this point, I am sure they would catch more fish in weight and numbers than a smaller mesh. The Legislature should pass an appropriation of \$20,000 for the first year and \$10,000 for ten years thereafter, for the purpose of establishing hatcheries. The product at present is about 2,500,000, and with proper hatcheries on both sides of the river this supply could be greatly increased, to the benefit of all. In my opinion salmon do return to sea, but in the deeper channels of the river. To be sure, thousands get so far up stream that they die before reaching the sea, but they doubtless attempt the return trip. There certainly should be a closed season, and net fishing should be prohibited in Clackamas River."

Do salmon return seaward?

Alexander N. Sutton, secretary of the Fishermen's Union at Astoria, related briefly his observations made during his career as a professional fisherman.

"There should be a law," said he, "protecting the young salmon. There are certainly more males hatched than females, and it is on this account we find so few of the latter. The small fish should be left to return, and according to the very highest authorities they undoubtedly do return twice in four years. The salmon will live ordinarily seven years, and the average weight at four years is about twenty-four pounds. Now the heavier salmon must certainly be older, and hence my theory of their return from the spawning ground to the sea. Many die from exhaustion in consequence of 600 or 700 miles travel, but a large number of them live in holes and pools until the first rains have come.

"The small salmon should be protected. They certainly can do no harm by being allowed to remain in the stream, and if caught are of little or no value to the state. The rivers are being cleaned out to an alarming extent of late, and especially since the introduction of wheels. They are placed in the vicinity of the spawning grounds and very few fish escape them. The law in Washington and Oregon should be the same in this matter, for the reason that if one state only imposes a penalty for catching small fish, the fishermen will, from business motives, seek the opposite side.

"I am opposed to traps for a great many reasons, but principally because I consider them dangerous to life and property."

Afternoon Session.

Upon the suggestion of the majority of the committee, and for the purpose of economizing time, the afternoon session was devoted strictly to the more important points on which information was required. Those who testified, therefore, were limited to a mere recital of such as came directly under their notice.

Frank M. Warren stated that during all of his eleven years' experience on the Columbia River, he had never seen or heard of a chinook salmon, or those of the so-called hybrid species, returning to the sea after spawning. They invariably lingered in the vicinity of the headwaters until they died.

"I was informed by the Japanese minister during his recent visit to this country," said Mr. Warren, "that in all the large rivers in Japan the salmon are known to ascend and die shortly after spawning, and it is the same here. By preventing the catching of salmon under eight pounds in weight the legislatures of Oregon and Washington would simply render valueless \$250,000 worth of property for the following reason:—

"The yearly gains from the smaller fish—blueback and steelhead—amount to \$80,000 for the Cascades; \$50,000 for the Dalles, and \$75,000 for the Lower Cascades. By allowing them to go up the river we accomplish nothing, as they are all males, and die without attempting to return. I believe in allowing men to fish during the open season, without regard to the size or weight of anything they may catch."

No harm to capture them.

B. A. Seabury did not think it would be any harm to capture the small fish, simply because he did not consider them chinook. They were lighter in colour, of a different shape, and on the whole were quite a different species. He believed they returned to the sea after spawning, although he had never caught very many in the Columbia on the down trip.

James Williams thought that a certain percentage of the salmon returned to the ocean. He had frequently seen and caught them drifting down the Columbia, but more especially in Alaskan rivers. He admitted that thousands of them die, but he attributed this to old age, disease and encounters with other varieties of fish. Mr. Williams was particularly displeased with the immense quantities of sawdust deposited in the rivers.

Opinion of Fish Commissioners.

Fish Commissioners F. C. Reed, of Oregon, and James Crawford, of Washington, entertained similar views on the fish question. They had never seen a live chinook returning, and had never discovered a female among all the small salmon coming under their notice.

Mr. Reed explained that at present there was a law in Oregon prohibiting the dumping of sawdust below the Willamette falls or Columbia Cascades, but he had never been able to enforce it. Both commissioners strongly advocated appropriations from both legislatures for the purpose of establishing hatcheries capable of turning out 20,000,000 annually. They also advocated concurrent jurisdiction on the Columbia, and recommended that the open season in both states be made the same.

After examining a model of the fish traps now in use, the committee went into executive session for the purpose of agreeing to a set of laws, acceptable to both states.

Result of the Inquiry.

After considering all the testimony, the committee from the Oregon legislature decided to recommend the passage of laws substantially the same as those at present in force in Washington with a few minor changes. The joint committee will recommend that the owners of fish nets, or pound traps, be required to lift the tunnels and close the entrance to hearts, during the weekly close time, and the passage of a law prohibiting the dumping of sawdust in the Columbia or its tributaries at any time or at any

place. There will also be recommended the passage of a law prohibiting any one from fishing in the waters of either state, unless he be a citizen of the United States and a resident of the state in which he intends engaging in business, for at least six months. Also prohibiting the catching of sturgeon during the months of January, February and March. Congress will also be memorialized to establish a hatchery either on the Columbia or one of its tributaries—the Sunkie River preferred.

The United States fish commissioner will be asked to acquire accurate information regarding the habits of the salmon in the Columbia. Persons engaged in the fishing industry in Oregon and Washington are anxious to determine whether or not the salmon do really return to salt water, and if so, do they return a second time to the rivers. These facts must first be determined before legislation can be passed protecting what is generally supposed to be young chinook.

ALEXANDER JAMES McLELLAN, a native of Prince Edward Island, in British Columbia for sixteen years, a resident of Victoria, B.C., a salmon cannery proprietor, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Well now, Mr. McLellan, are you desirous of giving any statement in regard to the matter before us, the fisheries of the province, individual rivers, or anything of that kind?—A. Well, personally I am not acquainted with any rivers except the Naas, which is very different, on account of location, etc., from all other rivers. I may say I have never asked the Government for anything or heard of any complaint going to the Government concerning the fisheries of the Naas River; that is the most northern river.

Q. How far up from here?—A. About 640 miles, I think.

Q. How large a river is it at the mouth, or the lowest where the limit of fishing shall be?—A. Oh, only about a quarter of a mile wide where the limit is.

Q. How far does the tide go above that?—A. About three miles.

Q. What description of fishing is carried on there?—A. All gill nets, drifting.

Q. And you drift how far out in the sea?—A. About 12 miles.

Q. What number of canneries have you there?—A. Three canneries; I have had 43 licenses every year.

Q. How many has the adjoining cannery to you, the Cascade?—A. I don't know how many.

Q. Do you know how many the British Columbia cannery has?—A. I don't know.

Q. You don't know, then, the gross number of boats on the river?—A. I suppose about 80 or 90, as near as I can recollect.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Is the capacity of other canneries about the same as yours?—A. No; they are not the same. I built the first cannery there, and I built a large one, and went in for 12,000 cases. Then the river is not like this; the fish are more regular. We never get more than fifty to the boat at any time; but they are more regular.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Then would the other two canneries be equal to your one?—A. Oh, more than that; they have about 30 boats apiece; I don't know exactly.

Q. Are there laid up at the head of that river?—A. Yes; a long way up.

Q. How far from the river boundary?—A. About 35 miles, I think.

Q. And how far it from the British Columbia cannery across the mouth of the river to you?—A. The British Columbia cannery is about six miles up from the mouth of the river, and I think the mouth of the river proper about two miles wide.

Q. Then the fishing is carried on along from the limit laid down away down about 12 miles?—A. About 12 miles.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Into the ocean?—A. Oh, no; from the limit down.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Can you get as many licenses as you want?—A. I don't know ; I was never refused. I just asked for 43 boats, and if I could not get them I would have to turn the key in my cannery ; that would be all.

Q. It takes the whole 43 to supply your wants?—A. Yes, sir ; there are no other people on the river wanting licenses and the Indians cannot afford to buy a net and it lasts only the one year and they cannot afford to buy it, and consequently we have to get nets and licenses for them ; then the Indians refused to pay any license fee and they came to me and were going to have a great council, and to stop trouble I paid the license fees out of my own pocket.

Q. Do you enter the licenses in your own name or in the names of Indians?—A. Well, you see they would not give the licenses to Indians ; the licenses are entered in my own name.

Q. And do Indians get licenses beyond that?—A. No ; none.

Q. And is the same system pursued by other canneries there?—A. The same system ; I think so ; all get licenses in their own name.

Q. Then you have a privilege over other rivers where they only get 20 licenses?—A. Well, it might be possible ; but there are so many fishermen on the Fraser River they can easily get up to 50 or 60 boats, but we cannot on the Naas ; there are no white people there.

Q. How could they get 50 or 60?—A. Well, if the canneries get 20 licenses, and then when there are many other licenses they go to the canneries and so the canneries have the privilege of buying many more than 25 ; on the Naas we have not. There is no population there ; nothing but a few Indians.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. And who do you employ as fishermen?—A. Indians ; and if I employ whitemen I have to take them from here.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Is there any settlement on the river?—A. No ; there may be one or two ; there is no agricultural land, and no people except Indians and missionaries.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Then as to the Sunday close season, is it kept up there?—A. It is kept obediently by the Indians.

Q. And the whitemen?—A. Well, as far as I am concerned I keep the Sunday. I close my store on Saturday night and it is not open until Monday morning, but there is one privilege I would ask of the Commissioners. They extended the time from six on Saturday evening until six Monday morning—now we fish only on tides—we have six and a half hours on and six and a half off, and I do not see why the fishery guardian who comes up there could not allow us to fish the tide out on Saturday night and then on Monday morning the tide might not be fit for fishing on until late in the day, and we have many men on wages and it means a great loss to us.

Q. Well, but the close season is from 6 a.m. Saturday to 6 a.m. Sunday. The weekly close season is the same throughout all the province. Mr. McNab can you give us any information?

Mr. McNAB.—Yes ; there is only one close season throughout the province, but there have been several changes. It was changed last from 6 o'clock Saturday night to 6 o'clock Monday morning to 6 o'clock Saturday morning to 6 o'clock Sunday evening.

Mr. WILNOT.—I think Mr. McNab is right. I think the old close season did so read, but the canners made application to have it changed to 6 o'clock Sunday night.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Well, would the present close season suit you?—A. Well, I would prefer if it was made in a way moveable on account of the tides.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Do the Indians work on Sunday?—A. No; they do not, and I do not work on Sunday myself—we don't want them to work, they go to church and are very good and obedient people.

Q. Then even if the close season stands as at present—from 6 a.m. Saturday to 6 p.m. Sunday night, the Indians would not work?—A. No; we do not want them to, but we would like to commence at 3 o'clock Monday morning if the tide was favourable. I want to leave thirty-six hours clear. You see we fish at low water slack and if it don't come right on Saturday the Indians will knock off at ten o'clock on Saturday morning and then perhaps it will not be right until ten or eleven o'clock on Monday morning and so all that time is lost. A moveable time would suit us better.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Do you fish when the tide is going out or coming in?—A. Well, we fish both going out and coming in—we fish six and a half hours and then knock off, I want to say that the lower camp, when the tide starts in, will catch 150 or 200 fish to the boat, and then at the upper camp some hours after, they will catch 150 again to the boat and so on, showing that the fish are making a steady progress up the river; and there is no danger of hurting the fish by the nets as we can only fish at one time for six and a half hours.

Q. You use ordinary drift nets? How many meshes deep do you use?—A. About thirty.

Q. Would the leads go to the bottom?—A. They might up river at low water but not at the mouth of the river.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. And then when the "lead" lines are on the bottom that would be the same as a seine would it not?—A. Well, it might be—that would only be up the river at low water.

Q. How wide would it be at that point?—A. About three-fourths of a mile.

Q. Do Indians fish there at all?—A. Not for the canneries, but they do for their own use.

Q. Do sockeyes, humpbacks and cohoes frequent that river?—A. Yes.

Q. But you only use sockeyes?—A. I put up some cohoes too, and some spring salmon.

Q. Are they white and red?—A. Yes.

Q. What proportion?—A. About one in six generally.

Q. What do you do with the white ones?—A. Give them to the Indians generally—I salted some one year and sent to Montreal but they didn't pay for the freight.

Q. What do you think as regards the quality?—A. I think they are just as good—just as rich and good in every way, but they will not suit the fastidious taste of the public.

Q. When do they frequent that river?—A. About 1st June.

Q. Do you know of them going up in September?—A. I have been informed there was such a thing, but I do not know.

Q. Yet for canning purposes they are no use?—A. No use for canning but equally as good for food.

Q. And you throw them away?—A. No—we give them to Indians—sometimes we salt them.

Q. What is the average size of spring salmon?—A. About twenty pounds—sometimes they go to fifty, seventy or eighty pounds.

Q. Could you forward a seventy or eighty pound salmon next year, if requested?—A. Yes; I think so—last year we had one that when cut up for canning weighed seventy-three pounds.

Q. Could you pack up one to send like that; I may say there is a collection being made, and it would be most desirable to get one like that for the collection?—A. We would be most happy to do it.

Q. Very well, if you will do so, I will be very much obliged. What is the average of sockeye in your river?—A. About 8 or 9 pounds; it takes about 10 to a case.

Q. Are there many humpbacks come up there?—A. Yes; most unfortunately they are nearly all humpbacks.

Q. You make no use of humpbacks?—A. No use whatever.

Q. Do Indians use them?—A. Yes, altogether; they dry better, and are not so oily.

Q. What about cohoes?—A. Well, we don't use them. We have canned some and sent them to Europe; but they don't want them any more.

Q. What is your opinion as to the salmon going up the Naas; do all die, or do some return?—A. Well, I don't know of that; I never saw any returning.

Q. Were you ever there when they would be returning—in September or October?—A. No.

Q. Then you don't know if they return or not?—A. I don't know.

Q. You have heard that fish after spawning get lean, lank and worn from exertions and exhaustion?—A. I have heard so.

Q. Well, an opinion seems to prevail that fish go up and spawn and then die, and I wish to find out if this is so.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. You never saw any returning?—A. No.

Q. Have you been far up the Naas River?—A. Yes, some way; but not far. I may say that there is a gentleman who lives up the river, the Rev. Mr. McKay, a missionary belonging to the English church, a fine gentleman, and he has been studying the fish up there and he tells me that in the month of April, when the ice would break up often there were thousands and thousands of ducks called spoon-bills, and often he has gone with his gun and has taken as many as 100 young salmon from the stomach of one duck, and he made a calculation that these ducks destroy at least 100,000 young salmon every day.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. But if you were told that young salmon were never there at that time what would you think?—A. Well, that is what he told me.

Q. And are there not other fish in those waters?—A. Nothing but trout.

Q. Is it a large lake?—A. Yes, a pretty large lake.

Q. I think you must dispossess your mind that young salmon would be at that place in that time of the year, in April. There might be young salmon five or six inches long there at that time; but not small ones—not small enough for a duck to swallow.—A. I may be wrong in the month; but I know he said that whenever he put his foot on a log the little fish would fly away in great numbers, and I think it is a question about which something must be done. We have no hatcheries; we never asked for any, and I know if that is true there must be a great many fish destroyed.

Q. Is your river decreasing in fish, do you think?—A. No; not at all. Only last year we had so many humpbacks, but we could not use them.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Do you know if there are many of those ducks there?—A. Well, you know how they are in many places up river—thousands of them.

Q. You could not trap them any way?—A. Well, no. When I considered the question over, I thought with the Rev. Mr. McKay, that it was a very serious thing indeed that those young salmon should be destroyed, and we all think that the ducks eat up a great many young salmon—they go there regularly every morning and evening where the fish have spawned and eat the eggs—when the ducks were killed in hundreds and in all of them there were many numbers of those young fish and in one case as many as 100, and I am speaking of this in all seriousness—I think it a most important matter and something should be done. The reverend gentleman thought perhaps if bushes could be placed along the shore—something to get the ducks to fly in other directions, it might help matters.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Well, I may state for your information and that of your reverend friend—a great many persons make a mistake in telling what are young salmon. Young salmon have the small adipose fins on the back. If they have not they are not salmon. A characteristic of the salmon the whole world over is they have a second dorsal fin on the back and if they have not they are not salmon.—A. Well, we will investigate it.

Q. How often do humpbacks come in the river?—A. Well, about every fifth year—they were very plentiful the year I bought the cannery.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. And do they come in great numbers and then disappear?—A. Yes, some days they will be in great numbers.

Q. And you do not use them?—A. No, not at all.

Q. Have you had any "short" years?—A. Only this year, the year before we put up 12,500 cases.

Q. And to what do you attribute that?—A. Well, there were so many humpbacks we could not get them—it was not for scarcity of fish.

Q. How many cases did you put up?—A. 5,400.

Q. And do you think fish are decreasing up that river?—A. No.

Q. You get several hundreds of humpbacks in your net—what do you do with them?—A. Let them drop out in the water again—they are no use.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. And you think the humpbacks getting in the net prevent the sockeyes from getting in?—A. Yes, the humpbacks occupy the attention of the fishermen so much they get sick of them—last year their nets all slimed up and we swore, I am afraid, more than we should have done.

Q. And do I understand that you would get as many sockeyes as you do humpbacks?—A. Oh, no; the sockeyes are not nearly so plentiful—we get several hundreds of humpbacks to the boat but we do not get as many sockeyes—the humpbacks come in great numbers—they fill the small streams up almost solid.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. In a season when sockeye are plentiful do you catch many humpbacks?—A. No, not at all—the year I went there the sockeye were very plentiful—they went as many as 300 to the boat.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. You had 43 boats out fishing—would they average 600 or 700 humpbacks per day?—A. Oh, no; not that—about 300 I would say.

Q. Then some 12,000 humpbacks would be thrown away?—A. Yes, they were no use—the Indians took ashore all they wanted to for their own use.

Q. Would the time in which you were catching this average of 400 humpbacks—would the same be going on with the other canneries?—A. About the same.

Q. So you see that would make the enormous sum of 56,500 humpbacks thrown away daily—and they come only in the fifth year—now do you think in the fifth year from now you will have as large a crop?—A. I do—I think they will be larger.

Q. And humpbacks, so far as your business is concerned, are useless and are not fit food for man to eat?—A. Quite useless; they are good when first in the rivers; then there is no hump on the back and they look much like sockeye salmon, but afterwards they get lean, slim, miserable concerns that would turn a man disgusted from the very look of them.

Q. Are you aware that all these fish with a hump are male fish, or have they all humps?—A. I cannot say that.

Q. It is said by many that the humpback is the male fish—the hump growing on the male fish after he is in the river. What do you do with your offal?—A. Well, it goes down; we are a long way from the river. We bring the fish round and clean them in Naas Basin and the offal is thrown into the sea.

Q. What is the height of tide there?—A. 22 feet.

Q. Then it runs largely up on banks then, does it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Will not the offal be brought back on the beach again?—A. No, sir; it all goes away.

Q. What is your idea with regard to fees payable for licenses, as you do your work on the Naas, should fees be equal throughout?—A. I think that \$5 is enough on Naas River when \$20 is the rate on the Fraser River.

Q. Why?—A. Well, they have many privileges which we have not, such as a hatchery and the hauling out of snags on the river. We never asked for hatcheries or for hauling out snags, our river is higher and if we take labour up we have to pay their way up and down.

Q. How about competition then on the Fraser River?—A. Well, we give high wages; it is \$40 and \$45 to men, and women make from \$1, \$1.50 to \$2 a day. We take whitemen from here and have to pay their fare both ways.

(Mr. Higgins here withdrew in order to attend to his other duties as Speaker of the Legislature.)

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Have you any special matter you wish to lay before the Board, do you know anything about the deep-sea fisheries? Are any carried on from Naas? Any cod, halibut, etc.?—A. There is halibut, I know; on my wharf we caught a halibut that weighed 140 pounds. Then there are plenty of beautiful sea-trout from one to three pounds; the Indians catch many of them.

Q. These sea-trout, do they go up river to spawn?—A. I think so.

Q. So you see, the little fish the reverend gentleman spoke of, may be little trout. Do you see any other fish eat the offal, etc.?—A. No, except the dog-fish; we see some of them.

Q. Are the suckers very plentiful here, do you see them in your river?—A. No.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. You say the first year you went up you caught an average of 300 to the boat?—A. Yes.

Q. You have been up there 5 years, since then have you caught as many to the boat?—A. Oh, yes; some years, but what I wanted to explain was that the Naas River fish are very regular; we averaged 300 the first year and then we would not get more than 50 to the boat, but the next year that average was 200; it was steady right along; we take down the average of each boat every day.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. And how many years have you been there?—A. Four years.

Q. I see in 1889 you packed 4,539 cases, and in 1890 you are credited with 6,703 cases, but previous to 1889 there is no record?—A. No, sir; that is not so, you are on the wrong line somewhere.

Q. You are A. J. McLellan; that is the name under which you pack?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Oh, yes; I see (reading from British Columbia Board of Trade report, 1891, p. 54) in 1888 it was 12,318 cases, and in 1889, 10,039, and in 1890, 12,110 cases; what did you pack last year?—A. 5,480 cases.

Q. How in regard to "off" and "on" years?—A. Well, you have it there (referring to report).

Q. And you have had three good years and one poor one, and that you attribute to the run of humpbacks?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Well, I see the Cascade Packing Co., in 1889, caught 4,539 cases, and in 1890, 6,793; the statement made by others then, that there is two "off" years and two "on" years, does not operate there?—A. Not to my knowledge. I have been informed by

the Rev. Mr. Green, who has been two years on Naas, that salmon run very regularly except when there is a heavy run of humpbacks; that the Indians have told him so; that for many years they will run the same year after year.

Q. This year then was an "off" year, brought about by humpbacks?—A. Yes.

Q. And the spring salmon you catch, are they about alike in numbers?—A. No; they are not; they were not as plentiful last year as the last two years.

Q. The humpbacks do not interfere with them?—A. No.

Q. Then there may be an "off" year for them?—A. It may be possible.

Q. I think you stated ten fish made a case?—A. Yes, ten.

Q. Well, sir, have you anything else? We have heard your information with pleasure and profit.—A. I was just going to say about the offal throughout the Dominion of Canada; in my own experience on the Atlantic Coast I do not know of any offal there that would apply to the Pacific Coast; they use it on land entirely and there is no offal to speak of.

Q. But there are other provinces than Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick?—A. Oh, yes; but I have been in New Brunswick, too.

Q. Were you ever on Winter River or Dunk River?—A. Yes, I have been there.

Q. Were there any salmon there then?—A. No, not at all.

Q. Well, there are plenty of salmon there now?—A. Well, they must have done it with the hatchery then.

Q. No; the hatchery is not now running; I think you must have forgotten about the salmon being there when you were a boy?—A. Well, we might catch an odd one with a spear.

Q. Then there were fish there, but you did not see them?—A. Well, I don't think there were many there.

Q. Then the offal of codfish is not allowed to be thrown in, and in England and other places they have asked for restrictions that this offal shall not be thrown in, as it drives the fish from the fishing grounds. I merely mention that to show what is thought of it in other places. Well, if you have nothing further to say?—A. No; I don't think so.

At 4.40 p. m., the Chairman declared the Commission adjourned, to meet again at 10 a. m., on 4th March, 1892.

VICTORIA, B.C., 4th March, 1892.

Morning Session.

The Commission was convened in the Board of Trade Rooms at 10 a.m.

Present:—Mr. S. Wilmot, in the chair; Mr. Sheriff Armstrong, Mr. Secretary Winter, and a numerous audience.

Mr. WILMOT.—Before the commencement of regular proceedings, I would like to say that my attention has been called to a subject which I think it my duty to lay before the Board. I notice in the minutes of yesterday which have been made public in the press, but which will appear correctly in the official records, that remarks have fallen from my brother Commissioners which would lead the public to think there has been dissensions in the Commission and this Board, and if this report is not correct, I think it should be disputed.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Certainly not dissensions.

Mr. WILMOT, (reading from Victoria "Colonist," 4th March, 1892), as follows:

"Commissioner Higgins.—Mr. Chairman, I think it is about time that this conduct was stopped. It is not right for you to enter into a wrangle with the witnesses and thus lead people to say things in retort when they are under oath that they would not say in cooler moments. I never in my life saw a Commissioner do such a thing before and I don't like to see it in this Fishery Commission. You know that Mr. Armstrong and myself objected to your acting in this manner on the very first day of the enquiry in New Westminster."

This is rather a slur thrown not only upon the Commission but upon the Chairman particularly, and I would like to ask the Commissioners if there were such dissensions, and if not they should be contradicted, seeing that not only yesterday, but during all former days that we have been sitting there has been no dissension whatever among the Commissioners.

Mr. HIGGINS.—You are addressing me, Mr. Chairman, I presume—No ; I did not say, in the first place, “I never saw a Commission or Chairman act so”—I am not responsible for what the papers say—but I would say I had a conversation with Mr. Armstrong in regard to the way in which you were shaping the questions and we did not think it was the right way to lead witnesses to answer questions in certain ways—I did speak to Mr. Armstrong and he spoke to you and then you spoke to me about it.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, as I understand—it was as these questions were bothering people and keeping them too long, but as to the manner in which the questions were put it was not exactly as given by you. I thought all questions relating to habits of fish, etc., should be given.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, did you tell Mr. Higgins that I had also the right to ask questions relating to habits of fish, etc.?

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I know that Mr. Armstrong came to me and asked if I thought you were going too far.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I may say that the reason Mr. Wilmot has been asking more questions than his brother Commissioners was that when this Commission was asked for it was thought right to get all information possible in regard to the fisheries of British Columbia and the Pacific Coast, and Mr. Wilmot who has had much experience in fish cultural operations has possibly explained a good deal in putting his questions.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I am not in accord with you in your way of putting these questions—I think you feel yourself on trial in regard to that report (Fisheries Report, 1890)—it is not so at all.

(Cries of hear, hear, and applause from the audience.)

Mr. WILMOT.—I would move that this meeting adjourn from this room—it is in every way a private room and I do not like the way we are carrying on our business. Persons should not applaud what is going on here. When we came from New Westminster we understood that a public room had been provided for our meetings.

Mr. HIGGINS.—This room has been hired, sir, for the purposes of the Fishery Commission ; it is as much a private room as anywhere in the city, but it is now a public room and is open to the public.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—For myself I would prefer not having any applause.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, it occurred at New Westminster.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I don't think so, Mr. Higgins.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I know it was stated that applause was made in New Westminster to remarks from my brother Commissioners.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, I object to sit here ; it is a private room, and the public do not know where the Commission is being held ; we should not have a private room ; it has not been published in the newspapers except on one occasion, and the public do not know of it.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, Mr. Chairman, while we are arranging these preliminaries, I would like to send out for Mr. Dempster, a gentleman who has had great experience on the Skeena River. Mr. Smith is here from the Legislature.

Mr. WILMOT.—Shall we issue a subpoena for Mr. Dempster?

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I think you objected to expense. I do not think it would be necessary to issue a subpoena for him. Mr. Johnston will be here in a little time ; Mr. Smith is here.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, if your over-rule my objection, I object to sitting here in a private room.

Mr. WILMOT.—Your objection is recorded.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, it is a great pity, I think, that we should sit here in a private room.

— ALFRED W. SMITH, M.P.P., a native of England, in British Columbia for 31 years, a merchant and trader in the upper country, and a member of the Local Legislature, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, Mr. Smith, are you desirous of putting anything before this Commission?—
A. Well, I would rather answer questions. I cannot say that I am an expert in fishing ; but I have had a good deal of experience and observation in regard to salmon in the upper rivers.

Q. Would you prefer questions *re* habits of salmon?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you specially refer to any one river?—A. The Fraser River and vicinity of Lillooet.

Q. Then your information would apply to the Fraser River at Lillooet particularly?—
A. Yes.

Q. What salmon frequent Lillooet to your knowledge?—A. Well, early in spring, along in May and June, the large silvery salmon reach that point ; they call them the spring salmon ; they are not very numerous at that point. As to the mode of catching them, you can see the Indians, who are the principal ones who catch them, with hoop-nets ; but owing to the nature of the river and the shore, you cannot see them (the fish), and it is difficult to catch them with hoop-nets while standing on the shore. These fish would weigh 12 to 16 pounds—possibly some larger and some smaller.

Q. They average from 12 to 16 pounds?—A. I should think they would. Then about the first of August, though seasons vary, some early and some late, the run is called the sockeye.

Q. Would you kindly go on with the spring salmon first ; the one species first ; do they spawn there?—A. Well, that I cannot tell you, because I have never seen them spawn.

Q. Can you describe any peculiarity of these fish—are some white and some red?—
A. Not at that season of the year ; I think it is later.

Q. Then the season you refer to is in August?—A. I was going to say the same species of fish come up in September. The same in every way, but a little larger on an average.

Q. Have you any knowledge as to the meat—is it red or white?—A. It is more of a pink. It is the same in the spring as in the fall—it is a pink salmon. As far as that is concerned there is another fish larger in size, but their flesh is always white. It will run from twenty to forty pounds.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. In what part of the year do they come up?—A. Along in September—the latter part of September and October.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. And they are red-meated?—A. No ; all white-meated.

Q. Do they resemble other fish?—A. In shape they do, but they are almost black—very dark. Their flesh is very oily and fat. They are not eaten by any one except by Indians, except on rare occasions.

Q. And what is your experience as to quality of white and red meat?—A. The white meat is very strong—not pleasant at all. I have eaten some of it.

Q. And that is not the case with red-meated fish?—A. No ; they are very fine flavoured fish the red-meated ones and silvery ones ; and the black fish run about the same time ; the black ones a little later, if anything.

Q. What do you mean by "run"?—A. Well, when they pass by Lillooet.

Q. The reason I ask you, sir, that question is this : that all salmon change their colour after entering a river and the flesh becomes whiter, so it is possible they may be the same species. That would make these changes come?—A. They must change their shape and everything else then, sir ; of course, their shape is the same as fish, but you can tell on sight of them they are white-meated salmon.

Q. And are you able to give us an opinion as to flavour and taste of these fish—you are speaking of them passing Lillooet?—A. Yes; that is where I am forming my opinion.

Q. You will pardon my questions because there is much divergence of opinion as regards this spring salmon—some white and some red. My brother Commissioner here thinks the taste of the white is very fine.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes; for private use I prefer it.—A. Well, the reasons, probably, because every one up the country don't like them is, possibly, for the reasons you state—that is, because it is approaching spawning time. I know I don't like them.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Have you noticed what state the ovaries are in—as they pass there would they appear nearly ready for spawning?—A. Well, I don't know.

Q. Would the eggs be held together or loose?—A. They are held together.

Q. Then you see they are not ripe. Would you give us some description of the sockeye fish?—A. The 1st of August is about the average time of the sockeye passing Lillooet.

Q. What is their appearance at that time?—A. They vary a little. As a rule, they are all darkish coloured and a little silvery. Their back is rather darker than their bellies.

Q. You have seen them in the lower part of the river?—A. Yes, they are darker there than in the lower part.

Q. Where do these fish pass up to?—A. Oh, they go in every little stream and lake—they run in great abundance in the Fraser River—about a week after their first appearance the river is perfectly full of them—you can see their backs sticking out of the water and any one catching them can catch them with anything—the Indians generally use a small hoop-net—the run is very great and they have to be very careful in putting it in because they catch 10 or 15 in one net—I have known them to be pitch-forked out and in fact anything will catch them.

Q. How far is Lillooet up river?—A. Oh, nearly 200 miles—it is 100 miles above Yale.

Q. And are there difficulties in the way between the navigable portion of the river and Lillooet?—A. Well, there is a rapid current and rocks in many places.

Q. Don't they have to pass through cañons?—A. Yes, that is below Yale—when they get 12 or 14 miles above Yale they are through the worst places.

Q. And would that be the place where persons on the train would see the fish?—A. That would be below Yale—the railway don't pass our place.

Q. And they are red in flesh then?—A. Yes, they vary in size—the flesh is very red and they would weigh about 7 to 10 pounds, I should judge—something like that—I never was bright in weighing though.

Q. You spoke of eggs in white salmon—have you ever noticed eggs in sockeye? How do they appear?—A. About the same—the Indians gather them and dry them and they all hang together—they gather them in great quantities.

Q. Have the Indians or the inhabitants a preference for sockeye?—A. Yes, they have a preference for sockeye over all others, the Indians use the sockeye more than others—they seldom dry the other kinds of fish.

Q. Could you give the Commission an idea as to how the spring salmon and sockeye deposit their eggs?—A. I cannot—they always appear to be moving up in that section.

Q. Is there no opinion about it in your section?—A. Well, there is an opinion that they spawn in creeks and lakes—when they get to Lillooet there is quite a large lake and where they go and then there is another lake connected with it and they will still follow on up those creeks emptying into Anderson Lake as far as they can go and I think there is no doubt they do spawn there.

Q. Do you see many fish dead there?—A. Hundreds of thousands—you can see them anywhere—any one going up in September will see the shores lined with them and in any little stream that runs in they fill it perfectly full and die there.

Q. You cannot say whether they die after or before depositing their eggs?—A. No, I never examined that.

Q. The natural idea would be it was after from extreme prostration?—A. Yes, sir; I would suppose so.

Q. Do you see many of these fish passing down by Lillooet dead?—A. Yes, many of them.

Q. At what time?—A. About the end of September—many of them are much decayed.

Q. Any living fish there?—A. Oh, there are living fish right up to December; until the cold weather comes and kills them.

Q. Is it possible for any of these fish to pass down stream?—A. Well, some very likely do, but I never saw a salmon passing down stream head first.

Q. I may mention that is a peculiarity of salmon, that they never go down head first, they always go tail first?—A. Well, I may say I have seen them in places trying to head up, but not going generally head first.

Q. I may say, sir, that salmon generally always drop down stream in that way?—A. I may say that in those streams there the salmon get so thick they cannot move, but I never saw them trying to get back.

Q. But you have seen them in a wiggling state until frost came with heads up stream?—A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Dead fish?—A. Dead and living fish; you will see them in hundreds of thousands.

Q. Do you think these living fish have parted with their spawn before they got in that condition?—A. I think they have; they quite change their appearance; the sockeye gets half red and early in the season you will see them all colours with swollen white spots and other spots.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. From wounds passing up river?—A. Oh, yes; some you will see with fins gone and tails; that is not altogether, but late in the season you will see them in that way.

Q. I may say, sir, we have taken eggs from the Pacific Coast over to Ontario and they have the same experience in the fall, after the spawning season they lose parts of their tails and look a lean, lanky and miserable fish. So you see we have the same experience there as here. Have you anything further to state about the sockeye?—A. No; I don't think I have.

Q. Have you not another description of fish, the humpback?—A. Yes, sir; they are rather thinner and flatter, not so round as the sockeye, though about the same size, they are always white-meated.

Q. Their outward appearance is what?—A. A dark colour, not a silvery colour.

Q. And they pass up in great numbers?—A. Some seasons they are generally late; they come after the sockeye; that is after the best of the sockeye have gone up; of course some are always there, but I mean after the heavy run of sockeye have passed up, but when they come there is not so many of the sockeye.

Q. Are all humpbacks the same or are these humpbacks only males?—A. Well, I cannot tell you that; the Indians regard them as a different kind of fish. No one uses them at all except Indians, and they won't use them if they can get any other. The sockeye is the great fish for the Indian up there.

Q. And when do they pass up?—A. Along in September and up to when the cold weather comes in.

Q. And do you say they die in numbers?—A. No; I cannot say that. I never gave particular attention to them. They have a perfectly healthy appearance, but are of inferior character. No one uses them or eats them except the Indians.

Q. And you never noticed them dead in the river?—A. No; I have not noticed them.

Q. Do you know how far they go up?—A. I do not.

Q. And have you another fish that comes up, the coho-qualla?—A. Well, I do not know them by those names; they are not called by names, as down here. We have the large salmon, the spring salmon, then the sockeye, and the large black or white-meated salmon and the humpbacks.

Q. And have you no knowledge of the coho?—A. No, I cannot say I have; there is another fish something like the spring salmon that comes up; the colour is not quite so silvery; they are a dark fish; those, I suppose, are the ones called cohos.

Q. Have you a fish called "dog salmon" there?—A. No, sir; I don't know it by that name.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Do you notice much difference in the quantity of sockeye in different seasons going up?—A. There is a great difference; hardly any two seasons alike; they vary very much. Whenever we hear of a large run of fish in the Lower Fraser we have it up there; sometimes we have a run of small sockeye up there that get through the nets down here.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. There is one question, sir, in noticing the sockeye, many dead, etc., have you ever noticed marks on the bodies as if they had got through the nets?—A. Oh, yes; I have seen those marks where they have been in the meshes of the net.

Q. And have you seen soreness or a fungus growth on wounds of dead or dying fish?—A. Well, I never examined them so closely as that; whenever we go to get a fish, if we do not get a good one, we simply put it back and get another.

Mr. WILMOT.—I may say this fungus growth is very destructive to fish the world over.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Do you notice many young fish going down the river?—A. Well, you cannot see in the main river, but in the small streams a great many go down.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. What do you mean by "young fish"?—A. Well, there are a great many go out of Seton Lake; the Indians catch great numbers of them.

Q. What length would they be?—A. Two and a half inches long, not over that; later in the season they get larger than that, but they are never so numerous.

Q. That is going out of Seton Lake?—A. Yes.

Q. Is Seton Lake surrounded by feeders running into it?—A. Yes; there are some small streams, but as a rule the streams would not harbour the fish until they got up to Anderson Lake and the waters beyond that.

Q. And Indians catch great numbers of them?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. What do Indians do with them?—A. They dry them and eat them.

Q. Do they catch bigger ones later in the season?—A. Well, later in the season; the latter end of September and middle to end of October, there is a class of fish from six to eight inches long that rises to the surface of the water and becomes inflated and you will see hundreds of thousands of those fish.

Q. Dead?—A. No, they are not dead; the Indians go out and will fill their canoe with these fish about the size of a herring, but there is so much air in them they will not sink.

Q. Have you ever thought they were young salmon?—A. Well, I have often thought that they were young salmon—the meat is quite pink and they have very much the appearance of salmon trout in shape and everything else—with this same quality of fish about the middle of October they go up on top of the water on Seton Lake—well, Anderson Lake is connected with Seton Lake by a stream a mile or two long—they go up in the lake in the same way—they are inflated with wind.

Q. They could hardly be a salmon I should think?—A. No; I don't think they are.

Q. And then it is not the habit of salmon to float always on top of the water.—A. Well, these cannot get down—they are full of air and float on the water until the cold weather kills them. Some folks suppose that they are salmon, and the reason they come up in two stops in the different lakes is that salmon in coming there to deposit their spawn are much later in Anderson Lake and that would make the young fish much longer in attaining their growth.

Q. I may mention, sir, to you that Lake Ontario has in certain seasons of the year thousands and thousands of small fish about four to six inches long floating on the surface of the water and so many of them that people have to move their residences on account of the stench.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. And these look like young salmon? Do you ever go angling for trout?—A. Oh, yes, often.

Q. And will trout up there take the fly?—A. No; not in the spawning season—the trout there are very much larger than ordinary trout and feed largely on the salmon spawn.

Q. And is it the popular opinion that trout destroy the spawn?—A. Yes; that is the general opinion—Indians say they eat the spawn—I never went into it very much myself.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Have you ever seen the salmon going down river?—A. No; I have seen but very few.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Well, the late Inspector of Fisheries considered that only five per cent go back from the Rocky Mountains and some twenty per cent only from nearer waters—do you think that is right?—A. I think even less than that go down. The Indians think but very few go back.

MR. WILMOT.—As we are referring to habits of salmon and Mr. Mowat's opinion has been drawn in, I have taken the trouble to get a copy of Mr. Mowat's letter to Judge Swan and I may read a portion of it bearing on the point. I merely mention this because we have had the matter up before—he says, you see, that seventy-five per cent return if they don't go far and five per cent from extreme distances.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Yes; but Mr. Smith thinks hardly any of them return?—A. Yes; scarcely any of them are ever seen going back.

Q. And you have been thirty-five years resident at Lillooet?—A. Yes. Thirty-five years.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. And what are these you have seen at Lillooet?—A. These are wounded ones and they appear to be making every effort to go up.

Q. You have observed a great many runs of fish in thirty-five years—are you of opinion that fish are increasing or decreasing?—A. I have not seen a bit of it.

Q. Well, say the period of seven years last. Were runs same as before—a good year some years, and a falling off at others?—A. I have not noticed any difference at all.

Q. Not since the hatchery has been established?—A. No; there are the same many, many fish. I do not think the fish hatched can be taken into account. I suppose if you took all the fish in one mile in the Fraser River, you would have more fish than have ever been planted.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, I may say those young fish always come back to their own waters?—A. I may say fish come up river and then go in Lillooet Lake, and then into Lillooet River, and they are very abundant there.

Q. That is full grown fish?—A. Yes ; the full grown fish.

Q. It is pretty well known now that fish that are natives of say, Morris Stream, for instance, and Siwash Stream, the fish that were natives of that stream would not ascend higher up at any time, neither would their offspring. What effect has dead fish on the inhabitants?—A. Well, on small creeks people don't pretend to use the water there at all.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. But on the Fraser River?—A. Well, on the Fraser River I don't know as it would make any effect ; the river is swift and large, and they go down very fast.

Q. Have you ever heard of illness caused by this?—A. No ; I have not. For my own part, I never eat a salmon in the upper country.

Q. Do you ever drink any water there?—A. Not of late years and never from the river. We take our water from springs, and at small streams, they do not use the water. I may say that at Lillooet mill the offal got into the wheel and stopped the operations.

Q. Dead salmon?—A. Dead salmon.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. I may mention, sir, that is not an unusual occurrence in other parts of the country?—A. Oh, yes ; I know.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Did you ever shoot any spoon-bill ducks up there?—A. No, sir ; none at all.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. You don't know then what they may carry in their crops?—A. No, sir.

Q. Have you anything further to suggest?—A. Nothing at all. I may say as regards the health—that is, the dead fish—I don't know, because I do not think people have ever thought much of it, but I should think the effects of dead fish would effect the health of the community.

Q. Are the inhabitants in any way numerous along these streams?—A. No ; there are some, but not many.

Q. Then you would not hear of any case of sickness there?—A. Well, as I say, I have not heard of any—then the cold weather comes on after these dead fish come, and that would prevent any offensiveness after that.

Q. Do any animals feed on these fish?—A. Oh, yes ; cattle and hogs eat fish up there.

Q. How does it effect hogs?—A. It makes the flesh unsaleable.

Q. What effect has it on cows—on the milk?—A. Well, I suppose it must affect the milk. Of course, I have seen some cows eat salmon, but you cannot say it is a general thing. I have heard that if the fish were cooked, it would not affect the flesh.

Q. I may say, sir, that I have seen a couple of cows eat quite a number of salmon in a day, and salmon of twenty-five pounds weight, too, and caught by myself.—A. Have you anything further to ask me, sir?

Q. No, I think not, Mr. Smith ; we are much obliged to you for your attendance and for the information you have given us ; thank you, sir.—A. Oh, not at all ; I am pleased if I have told you anything of value.

HON. P. O'REILLY, Indian Reserve Commissioner, a native of Ireland, living in British Columbia since 1859, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, sir, if you are desirous of giving any information we will be very glad to hear it?—A. Well, Mr. Wilmot, I do not think I could give any valuable information; I have not been in a position to give anything in particular.

Q. Well, sir, we might ask you questions?—A. Oh, yes; I will be very glad to answer questions or give my reason for not being able to do so.

Q. The first question on our list is as regards the offal. What effect do you think it has on the river?—A. I have had no opportunity of judging; when I knew the Lower Fraser River the industry was in its infancy.

Q. Then there was not sufficient thrown in then to allow you to judge?—A. No; there were very few canneries at that time.

Q. Then you only know by hearsay?—A. Yes.

Q. Would it be out of place for you to state what you have heard?—A. Well, I have heard divers opinions; some say it is injurious and some others it has no effect whatever.

Q. Well, the effect of saw-dust on salmon?—A. Well, again, I can only say I have always heard that saw-dust was injurious; I do not pretend to know much about it though; I do not speak practically upon it.

Q. Then the question of limitation of nets?—A. I have not the slightest knowledge upon that.

Q. Well, as to the Sunday close time, whether the Sunday should be kept in its entirety or a portion of it devoted to fishing; the close season at present is from 6 a. m. Saturday, to 6 p. m. Sunday; many are under the impression that it should contain the whole Sunday; have you any opinion on that point?—A. On general principles I should be very glad to see the Sunday kept, but my evidence must be mostly hearsay; I have not been resident in the vicinity of canneries for many years.

Q. But do you think on general principles that Sunday should be observed?—A. Certainly.

Q. Have you any knowledge of the effects of artificial breeding of fish?—A. None whatever.

Q. Then on the question of the limitation of licenses, persons coming to the country cannot get licenses, do you think resident fishermen and British subjects should get licenses?—A. Of course on general principles I should think every British subject should be encouraged in every industry, but I have no special knowledge on that either.

Q. Then do I draw the conclusion that persons emigrating here should be entitled to licenses?—A. Oh, certainly, most certainly.

Q. Well, I don't know, unless you have any other matter to advance—that we can ask you anything further.—A. I do not think I could throw any light of value upon your enquiry.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. You have travelled much in the interior?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever noticed the fish ascending the rivers and streams?—A. I have noticed them and know of streams where the fish once numerous are now depleted, and others have much increased.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Could you give the names of those streams, Judge O'Reilly, where salmon have disappeared?—A. The Upper Columbia River for one.

Q. That runs out in American Territory?—A. Yes.

Q. What cause was assigned?—A. The Indians assign the extensive trapping and catching of fish on the Lower Columbia River.

Mr. HIGGINS.—There is no hatchery on the Columbia River?

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh, yes—there are two or three of them.

Mr. HIGGINS.—But they don't put them in above?

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh, no.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Would you issue licenses to independent or individual fishermen without regard to canners?—A. Oh, certainly not—unless there was danger of over-fishing, then I think there should be a limit.

Q. Well, if canners had no licenses and fishermen had all, would that place canners at the mercy of the fishermen?—A. I should think so—that would be a monopoly.

Q. And on the other hand if canners got all and fishermen none, would it not be the same thing on the other side?—A. Oh, yes; I don't think there should be a monopoly on either side.

Q. Do you ever hear of obstructions being put in the Columbia River to prevent fish from ascending?—A. I have heard they were in the habit of putting traps and wheels in the river there.

Q. Have you ever seen one of those fish wheels in operation?—A. No, I have not. The fish are ascending in great numbers in the Lillooet River.

Q. When were you there, Judge?—A. In August.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Were there many dead and dying fish then?—A. Not then—there would be later on—I have passed down and saw many numbers and the dead afterwards.

Q. Had they then spawned do you know?—A. Well, the spawning beds were pointed out to me and I saw places where they had ploughed up, etc.

Q. It is said after fish go up they die and none come down—have you any opinion on that point?—A. Well, I do not know—I have seen living fish very weak on the way down.

Q. Head foremost or tail first, or how?—A. Well, I think I have seen them in all positions—head first trying to stem the current, etc.

Q. Well, if you have nothing further, Judge O'Reilly, we are much obliged to you for your information.—A. You are quite welcome—I am sorry it is not of more value to you.

Mr. J. H. TODD, a native of Ontario, resident of Victoria, B.C., an importer and salmon canner, having been thirty years in British Columbia and ten years in the salmon canning business, was duly sworn.

Mr. Todd proceeded to read his evidence from a written document, the first part being a letter from a friend on the Columbia River, U.S., explaining the present condition of no restrictions on that river, and forwarding copy of a bill which had been introduced in the Legislature of Oregon on the subject of the salmon fisheries.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. This letter you are reading, is it from a packer, not an authentic government report?—A. Yes; from a packer; but from a man from whom every word I will venture as authentic.

Q. Of course; but the proper way is to take the regular statutes of the country.—A. (holding up letter from which he had been reading) This is perfectly correct, and I have a copy of the bill which will prove that the statements are accredited. I submit them as evidence.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—But we will not take them as evidence.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Oh, don't be in a hurry. Wait till we see them.

Mr. TODD.—Well, I may say I wrote to these parties on account of my conversation with yourself and Mr. Armstrong, a few nights ago, and this letter is the reply.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, but suppose everybody should write like this and put in all sorts of documents—we cannot do things like that, you know.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I daresay Mr. Todd has enterprise enough to get those papers properly certified, and then it might go in.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, he may put it in as information.

The letter read by Mr. Todd was as follows :—

ASTORIA, OREGON, 25th February, 1892.

Messrs. J. H. TODD & SON,
Victoria, B.C.

GENTLEMEN,—We have your favour of the 19th instant, and herewith enclose a copy of the joint Oregon and Washington fish law as now in operation, which will answer most of the enquiries that you make.

Fishing licenses are not required and each cannery may employ as many boats, traps, or seines they deem to their interest, there being no restriction in this matter. There is a separate law, however, which provides that no man may fish who has not been a citizen of either state for the six months prior to the time that he commences to fish, and a citizen of the United States for one year prior to that time.

Any method of catching fish may be used, either gill-net, trap, seine, or wheel, and in fact, there are no restrictions, except as to the close seasons and times, which are fully explained in the enclosed copy of the law.

On the upper river the offal is allowed to fall into the river at each cannery, but on the lower river it is gathered up by a party engaged in making salmon oil and thus disposed of, though there are no legal regulations in the matter.

We think this will cover about all the points mentioned in your letter, and any that occur to us in that connection.

We note that the packers on your streams contemplate the restriction of packs, as the Alaska packers have done. Just what will be done on this river, it is impossible to say as yet, but as far as the quantity of a pack is concerned, it does not cut much of a figure, because we know that we can only do about so much, varying but little from season to season, and about all of the pack has a regular trade in the United States, consequently cuts no figure as to the supply of foreign markets. The price of fish has not yet been agreed upon, but in our opinion will be \$1, and packers will necessarily be much firmer in their selling ideas than they were last season, for the reason that when the season of 1891 opened, most of the packers expected to get fish for 75 cents and sold accordingly, but had to pay \$1 for their fish, thus making no money. This season they expect to pay \$1, and will raise their selling ideas proportionately, so that all things combine this season to make a much firmer market than has been for several years past.

If we have overlooked any information that you would like to have, do not hesitate to call upon us at any time, and we shall always cheerfully be of any service that lies in our power.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) GEORGE & BARKER.

Mr. TODD.—And this, gentlemen, is the Bill embodying the laws at present in force—Senate Bill, No. 205—introduced by Senator Fulton, of Oregon (proceeds to read Bill). Though this is but a copy of the Bill, I know that it was approved as this reads on 17th February, 1891, and is now the law.

The Bill is as follows :—

Oregon Legislature.

Sixteenth Session.

SENATE BILL No. 205.

Introduced by Mr. Fulton.

A BILL

For an Act to protect salmon and other food fishes in the State of Oregon and upon all waters upon which this State has concurrent jurisdiction, and to repeal sections 3489, 3490, 3491, 3492, 3493, 3494, 3495, 3496, 3497 and 3498 of Hill's Annotated Laws of Oregon.

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon :

Section 1. It shall be unlawful to take or fish for salmon in the Columbia River or its tributaries by any means whatever in any year hereafter, between the first day of March and the tenth day of April, or between the tenth day of August and the tenth day of September, or in any of the rivers and bays of the State or the Columbia River during the weekly close time—that is to say, *between the hours of six o'clock p.m. on each and every Saturday and six o'clock in the afternoon of the following Sunday, close time*; provided, that in Clackamas River it shall not be lawful to take or fish for salmon, by any means whatever, between the tenth day of August and the first day of October; and any person or persons fishing for or catching salmon in violation of this section, or fishing for salmon by leaving or having any fishing gear in the water in a condition to take fish, or purchasing salmon so unlawfully caught, or having in his or their possession any such salmon, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and upon conviction thereof, be fined in a sum not less than fifty dollars nor more than two hundred and fifty dollars.

Section 2. It shall be unlawful in any manner to catch, kill or destroy any salmon on or within one mile below any rack or other obstruction erected across any river or stream for the purpose of obtaining fish for propagation, and any person or persons violating any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and upon conviction thereof be fined in a sum not less than fifty dollars nor more than two hundred and fifty dollars, and any and all appliances used in the violation of this Act, viz.: boats, nets, traps, wheels, seines or other appliances shall be subject to execution for the payment of the fine herein imposed.

Section 3. It shall not be lawful for any person or persons to take or fish for salmon in the waters of the Nehalem, Tillamook, Nestucca, Salmon, Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea, Siuslaw, Umpqua, Coos Bay, Coquille, Sixes, Elk, Chetco, Rogue River, Windchuck or any of their tributaries, or in any other streams or bays in this State except the Columbia River and their tributaries, from the 15th day of November until the first day of April during any year hereafter, and any person or persons violating any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and upon conviction thereof be fined in a sum not less than fifty dollars nor more than two hundred and fifty dollars.

Section 4. It shall not be lawful for any pound net, set net, trap weir or other fixed appliance for taking fish, to extend more than one-third of the way across the breadth of any stream, channel or slough, at the time and place of such fishing, and any person or persons violating any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and upon conviction thereof be fined not less than fifty dollars nor more than two hundred and fifty dollars.

Section 5. It shall not be lawful to cast or pass or allow to be cast or passed into any waters of this State into which salmon or trout are wont to be, any lime, gas, coculus, indicus, or any other substance deleterious to fish, and any person or persons

violating any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and upon conviction thereof be fined in a sum not less than fifty dollars nor more than two hundred and fifty dollars.

Section 6. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to receive or have in his possession, or to offer for sale or transportation, or to transport during the close season in the spring, namely, from March first to April tenth, any of the following varieties or kind of fresh fish: Chinook salmon, silver salmon, steelhead or blueback, and any person or persons violating any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and be fined in a sum not less than fifty dollars nor more than two hundred and fifty dollars.

Section 7. Any person or persons now owning or maintaining, or who shall hereafter construct or maintain any dam or other obstruction across any stream in this State which any food fish are wont to ascend, without providing a suitable fishway or ladder for the fish to pass over such obstruction, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and upon conviction thereof be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than two hundred and fifty dollars, and said dam or obstruction may, in the discretion of the court, be abated as a nuisance.

Section 8. It shall not be lawful for the proprietor of any saw-mill in this State, or any employee therein, or any other person, to cast saw-dust, planer shavings or other lumber waste made by any lumber manufacturing concern, or suffer or permit such saw-dust, shavings or other lumber waste to be thrown or discharged in any manner into the waters of this State, or the Columbia River, or to deposit the same where high water will take the same into any of the waters of this State, or the Columbia River, and any person or persons violating any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in a sum not less than one hundred dollars nor more than two hundred and fifty dollars.

Section 9. Whenever the term salmon is used in this Act, it shall be construed to include chinook, steelhead, blueback, silverside and all other species of salmon.

Section 10. All the moneys collected under the provisions of this Act shall be paid into a fund to be known as a fish commission fund.

Section 11. Payment of any fine and cost imposed under the provisions of this Act shall be enforced in the same manner as is now provided by law in other criminal actions.

Section 12. Justices of peace shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit court of all offences mentioned in this Act.

Section 13. Nothing in this Act shall be construed so as to prevent the taking of fish at any time of the year and in any manner for propagation.

Section 14. Every person or persons owning or operating or using any pound net shall, during the weekly close times aforesaid, cause the entrance thereto and into the heart thereof to be securely closed in such manner as to prevent fish from entering the same, and the tunnel thereof shall be lifted so that fish cannot pass through it. And every person owning, using or operating any pound net or trap in any river or waters of this State or in any river or waters over or upon which this State has concurrent jurisdiction, shall cause to be posted in a conspicuous place thereon a number not less than six inches high, painted in black on a white ground, which number shall be named and designated to such person by the fish commission, and such person or persons so owning, using or operating any such trap or pound net shall conspicuously show at night time, between sunset and sunrise, a bright white light; and any person violating any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than ten dollars nor more than two hundred and fifty dollars.

Section 15. That sections 3489, 3490, 3491, 3492, 3493, 3494, 3495, 3496, 3497 and 3498 of the general laws of Oregon, as annotated and compiled by W. Lair Hill be and the same are hereby repealed.

Section 16. This Act shall be in force from and after its approval.

Approved 17th February, 1891.

Mr. TODD.—Before leaving this point, I would like to make a remark in regard to the responsibilities of agents. It was remarked yesterday that a person would not take

a commission or agency even suppose there was a good commission attached to it, and it was with a view of showing that agents occupy a very responsible position in connection with the canning industry. They do the financing and furnish the means for the canneries for which they are agents, consequently the risk is very large and the small amount of commission which they receive for their services would not warrant them in taking an agency unless it was a success.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Do I understand then that unless a company is successful the agent would not get his commission?—A. Well, it is not connected directly with it—it is based on the product.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. I think what Mr. Todd means is that if the product does not turn out well, the agent will not get his money back.—A. Yes, Mr. Armstrong understands it—I merely wanted to mention it.

Mr. Todd proceeded to read from his memorandum and referred to offal having been at one time deposited in pens or cribs by order of the Department.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Is that so—the Department required the offal to be put into bins?

Mr. WILMOT.—I don't know about that—Mr. McNab, can you say if this was so?

Mr. McNAB.—Yes, I believe that is quite correct—it was before my time, but I believe it was cribbed under directions from the Department.

Mr. TODD.—When I make a statement, Mr. Commissioner, you will please take it. (Applause from audience.)

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Order, order, gentlemen; (to Mr. Todd). Oh, I don't doubt your word, but I was not aware that such was the case.—A. Yes, and it just shows the folly of having to defer to people at Ottawa who are so far away, they do not know anything about the matter.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Was it not the fault of your representatives, Mr. Todd, in not having the matter rectified?—A. Well, unfortunately, our representatives have never been paid much heed to.

Mr. Todd then proceeded, reading from his memorandum on the question of licenses—advocating the granting of twenty-five licenses to each cannery, and unlimited licenses to fishermen—during this Mr. Wilmot's name was mentioned in connection with the statements contained in his report of 1890.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. You bring my name in there, sir?—A. Yes, sir; I do.

Q. The facts and figures taken by Mr. Wilmot were taken from your own reports, sir, furnished to the Department.—A. But, I have seen in the evidence given—so many fish to the boat, etc. Now, sir, I have the facts here for every season since '88—the detailed catches of the contract boats during each season and taken from our books.

Q. Are these the daily catches?—A. For the whole season—now I will just read the figures for '88. Richmond Cannery—Todd & Sons—"Chas. Victor," 957; "Felix," 845; "Old Jim," 1,308; "Frank," 822; "Cemon," 932; "Old Charley," 499; "Peal," 1,114; "Kanaka Joe," 1,260; "Croney," 879; "Peter," 952; "Capt. Jack," 522; "P. Gonsally," 1,344; "Philip," 879; "Albertson," 411; "Billy Bell," 474; "Kenneth," 454. Sixteen contractors—fish, 13,652—average 854—32 days fishing average for 24 hours, 27 fish.

Q. That was a short year, was it not?—A. I am well aware of it, sir.

Q. Was not 1889 a bigger year?—A. If you have patience, sir, I will tell you presently. (continued reading) Richmond Cannery, season 1889—Todd & Sons: Contract boats fishing, 10. Season commenced 15th July; season ended, 25th August; equal days of 24 hours, deducting 36 hours per week close time, 32 days. Contractors'

catches, "Kanaka Joe," 5,723; "Cemon," 8,493; "Old Jim," 9,931; "Garupie," 7,671; "P. Gonsally," 8,876; "Tom," 6,712; "Frank & Old Charley," 8,696; "Philip," 8,398; "Capt. Jack," 7,175; "Edwards," 7,697. 10 contractors caught 79,372 fish, average 7,937. 32 days fishing equals average per 24 hours, 248.

Q. The contractors are whom?—A. Both outside fishermen and our own men. The men get pay for the fish turned in and so it does not matter. They are whitemen, Indians, and all kinds, more or less.

Q. Then you see these averages are much more than any we have had. The general average was about 6,000?—A. Well, I read it in the papers.

Q. Do you believe all you see in the papers, sir?—A. Well, when I see it comes from a reliable source like this Commission, I certainly think it correct.

Mr. WILMOT.—But the Commission has had nothing in the papers; not a thing.

Mr. Todd then read his figures for 1890 and 1891, after which the memoranda as to the catches were handed to the Secretary for record.

Mr. TODD.—I give you the different years and you will see it all depends upon the run.

The data put in by Mr. Todd were as follows:—

Richmond Cannery, Season of 1888, J. H. Todd & Sons.

Contract boats fishing, 16. Season commenced, 10th July; season ended, 20th August. Equal days of 24 hours, deducting 36 hours for weekly close time, 32. Total catch during season, 13,889. Average, 854. 32 days, equal average per 24 hours of 27.

Contract boats fishing, 1889, 10; 1890, 16. Season commenced, 1889, 15th July; 1890, 4th July; season ended, 1889, 25th August; 1890, 20th August. Equal days of 24 hours, deducting 36 hours weekly close time, 1889, 32; 1890, 38. Total contractors' catch for season 1889, 79,372; 1890, 79,654. Average per 24 hours, 1889, 248; 1890, 131. Average per contractor for season, 1889, 7,937; 1890, 4,981.

Contract boats fishing, 1891, 20; season commenced, 1891, 7th July; season ended, 1891, 30th August. Equal days of 24 hours (less close time) 1891, 43. Total contractors' catches, 1891, 60,787. Average per contractor, 1891, 3,039. Average per man per 24 hours, 1891, 70.

Beaver Cannery.

Contract boats fishing, 1889, 9; 1890, 16; 1891, 14. Season commenced, 1889, 15th July; 1890, 4th July; 1891, 7th July; season ended, 1889, 25th August; 1890, 20th August; 1891, 30th August. Fishing days of 24 hours, 1889, 32; 1890, 38; 1891, 43. Total contractors' catches, 1889, 73,603; 1890, 77,255; 1891, 57,798. Average contractors' catches, 1889, 8,067; 1890, 4,830; 1891, 4,128. Average contractors' per 24 hours, 1889, 252; 1890, 128; 1891 96.

Q. Then as to the close season?—A. I think the close season as it stands at present is all right; I think laying off at 7 o'clock on Saturday morning and commencing again on Sunday night is about the correct thing as well as we can get it. I will ask your Commission to allow me to make a statement *re* Alaska pack. It was last year about 800,000 cases; they have unanimously decided to limit it this year to one-half that amount. I mention this so that there should be as few restrictions put on canners here as possible; when we have to compete with a place like Alaska, where the catch of fish cost them almost nothing; now this year they have decided to reduce their catch one-half. I will just hand in this memo. on the subject to the Secretary, so it may go on record:—

"Alaska: there are thirty-four canneries, of which only nine are to work this season; give reasons as poor business; pack to be reduced from 800,000 cases in 1891 to 400,000 cases in 1892."

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. And what are the reasons for this?—A. Simply on account of the over-supply of salmon in the markets of the world.

Q. Well, how would that affect you if the Government put a limit upon you here?
A. Well, we are voluntarily restricting our supply this coming year ourselves.

Q. Now, you instance you use 50 boats in a poor season, and in a good season you want 100?—A. Oh, no; only we require more boats in a poor year than in a good year.

Q. But is not that affecting the interests of the fishery?—A. No; not at all; we have abundance of fish, and the quantity of fish is not decreasing, but is increasing; that is shown, I think, clearly from the records.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Are both your canneries on Canoe Pass, Mr. Todd?—A. No; one is on the main river and the other on the channel.

Q. How do you dispose of your offal?—A. We put it in the water.

Q. Have you ever seen it afterwards?—A. No; it is carried off and disappears.

Q. Have you had complaints that any offal catches in your nets?—A. No, sir; not one, and for that reason I cannot believe that the statements that have been made are wholly true, because I will say with our own experience of our own boats we have never once heard of complaints on that score.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. If fifteen or twenty people would swear that, would you say it was not true?—A. No; but I am speaking from my own knowledge.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Are you at the cannery during the season?—A. Yes; most all the time.

Q. Have you ever drank any of the water?—A. Yes, I have. Now, I would like to say a word on that. I would say that the great trouble of inhabitants on the Fraser River is they should filter their water; we have used a filter for our purposes always.

Q. Have you ever heard of a case of typhoid around your neighbourhood?—A. Well, there have been some; but I do not know of any in our immediate neighbourhood. I have known of it in the mountains, in the city, and all the way round; there is typhoid everywhere, and I do not know of any cases where it could come from the water. It exists in places where there appears to be any bad water or smells, etc.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Where does it generally prevail?—A. Well, wherever the greatest amount of decaying matter is I suppose, but it is everywhere more or less, and not only on Fraser River but all round.

Q. I think where foul or impure water is found—is that so?—A. Well, I cannot say that—here right in this city, in the dirtiest place in the Chinese quarter, I have never heard of a case of typhoid fever yet. I don't know how it is our people will get it—now, there is Judge O'Reilly, who gave his evidence just before me—his son has got it, and I am sure there is not a cleaner place in the city of Victoria than around his premises, and yet he has got it.

Q. The microbes or germs must have got in then—well, have you anything further to say?—A. No.

Mr. R. P. Rithet at this point handed in a telegram to Mr. Wilmot, bearing upon the sittings of the Commission, and enquiring the length of time the Commission would sit in Victoria.

MR. ARMSTRONG.—We were informed that there were a number of fishermen from Skeena River who wished to give evidence—now, we have had none of them yet I think—now, if you have any fishermen from that part of the country that would desire to give evidence?

MR. RITHET.—I think so—I will enquire.

MR. ARMSTRONG.—Well, are there many fishermen go from here up north to work?

MR. RITHET.—Yes, I think so.

MR. ARMSTRONG.—Well, if there are no fishermen or others here, I do not see why we should sit on Monday, if we can get done to-morrow—I would like to have some practical fishermen if possible, like we had in New Westminster.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I think we can wire him to come down by boat to-morrow and give his evidence to-morrow—I don't think there will be any need to sit on Monday at all.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well then, tell him to come to-morrow. (A gentleman in the audience.) Most of the fishermen have already gone north.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I think Mr. Dempster, if possible, should come here and give evidence—he would be a most important witness. (A gentleman in the audience.) The Commission ought to go to the Skeena River and take evidence there.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, it would be impossible—then the fishermen would be busily engaged.

Mr. ROBERT WARD.—Mr. Chairman, I am on oath and I would like to make just one addition to my evidence of yesterday that has just been suggested to me. The unanimous desire of all interested in the fishing business is that the authorities should come here and visit the localities in the fishing season.

Mr. WILMOT.—But could practical fishermen be obtained then?

Mr. WARD.—I think so—the fishermen are not always actively engaged—they work in two shifts.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, if the fishery interest can bring sufficient influence to bear on the Dominion Government to let us come around in the fishing season, I am sure we will be only too glad to take advantage of it.

Mr. WARD.—Well, I am sure the Government would not grudge a few dollars to get the valuable information they would obtain by visiting the fishing places during the fishing season.

Mr. WILMOT.—But the Commission could not sit until next September.

Mr. WARD.—I would suggest they adjourn until then.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—But then there would be no report, Mr. Ward.

Mr. WARD.—Well then, the Commission could make *interim* recommendations, so that there would be no suffering on account of delay.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I may say we have already made suggestions to the Government, so that no hardship may ensue.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes; and I may say that before we left New Westminster, Mr. Wilnot was waited upon by a delegation from the New Westminster Board of Trade requesting that a decision be arrived at at an early day.

Mr. WILMOT.—Yes; and I may say that I informed the delegation that I would suggest to the department the desirability of getting these regulations ready as soon as possible, and that an *interim* license should be issued lasting until the 1st of June; but as regards the cannery, this Commission would have their report in shape before the cannery would commence their operations. They generally commence, I believe, along in June, and before then the Commission would have reported assuredly. But, I may state, and I do so publicly, that my opinion is, the Government would not make any radical or material alteration in the matter, whatever may be the recommendations of this Commission.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Why should not this Commission recommend as a body that no alteration should take place in the present state of affairs for this year? Now, you must know it will take a long time to transcribe this evidence; it is most important, and cannot be hurried, and affects many of our fellow-citizens very much; we should go over it carefully, etc.

Mr. WILMOT.—But, I would say that if we have to wait here until June—

Mr. HIGGINS.—I do not think it will be ready, from appearances, until the fall.

Mr. WARD.—I think no change should take place in the regulations this year.

Mr. WILMOT.—When do the preparatory operations begin?

Mr. WARD.—Well, I think on the northern rivers they have already commenced; and on the Fraser River they will very soon commence also, and it is very hard to make even an approximate calculation until it is known what the Government intend to do.

Mr. WILMOT (to Mr. McNabb). When do you first issue the licenses, Mr. Inspector?

Mr. McNABB. Well, just as they apply for them. The northern canneries apply often in January and February. It is very important for them that they should know the licenses they are to get, some time beforehand, as early as possible.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, I think the Commission might meet and decide on some points—on recommendations to carry out this year.

Mr. ALEX. EWEN.—Well, we feel it is a great hardship, not knowing how to prepare for our work. It may turn out from this Commission, and from remarks that have been made, that we will be almost prohibited, and the restrictions will be so great that we may have to arrange—we have been threatened with all sorts of things.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Pardon me, Mr. Ewen, do you say you have been threatened?

Mr. EWEN.—I have been threatened with being fined \$100 a day.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Oh, no; we simply told you the law. We told you you were liable to be fined. You should not go so far in making statements. I merely told you the Government had no power to overrule an Act of Parliament. Parliament is the highest court of the land, and the Government cannot override that. Now, the general impression is that—

Mr. WILMOT.—I must call you gentlemen to order; we must proceed to business.

ASHDOWN GREEN, a native of England, twenty-nine years in British Columbia, a civil engineer, and resident of Victoria, B.C., was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, Mr. Green, if you have anything to tell us we will be very glad to hear you.—A. I do not know that I have any statement to volunteer—I have been requested to come here and give any information on the natural history of salmon that I may know—I have not had much opportunity to get special information on salmon, but I have thought if there is anything I can give I will be very happy to do so.

Q. Well, I may say I feel a little hesitation in putting these questions, because at New Westminster I felt them particularly tedious—I may say, however, that the object of this Commission is not only for the cannery or the fishermen, but to obtain all information possible as regards the habits of fish, etc., in order that the Government may derive information useful for the preservation of the supply.—A. The spring salmon and the cohoes are the ones with which I am best acquainted.

Q. What are your views with regard to spring salmon—on what streams do you specially refer to?—A. I know most of the streams in British Columbia, not intimately, but from travelling through and taking notes of different streams.

Q. When do spring salmon enter the rivers?—A. At different times—hardly two rivers are alike.

Q. Are you acquainted with the Fraser River?—A. Very little.

Q. What river then?—A. The Cowichan River—it is a small stream, but you can observe a small stream better than a big one—the Cowichan is about thirty or forty miles from here on the east coast of Vancouver Island.

Q. What is the size of that stream at the ordinary height of water?—A. It varies, but the Cowichan is very broad now—about 120 or 130 feet or perhaps 150 on an average.

Q. Is it rapid in current?—A. Rapid in current and navigable for about half a mile or three-quarters—the upper part is rocky and gravelly and the lower through lovely soil.

Q. And do you consider it a good breeding river?—A. Yes; a good breeding stream.

Q. Do salmon breed in the river or do they go in smaller lakes and streams at head waters?—A. Yes; at the smaller waters.

Q. When do they spawn?—A. In October at the head of the river and later in the small streams at headquarters.

Q. And that is the universal time of spawning of salmon on this coast?—A. Yes; about that—some a little earlier—October would cover the principal spawning time.

Q. What process is undergone by salmon in depositing their eggs?—A. The quinnat spawn in pairs—the others do not.

Q. Do not the sockeye too?—A. I know nothing of the sockeye.

Q. Then you are referring more particularly to spring salmon and cohoes?—A. Yes; and also the humpbacks and dog-salmon—they do not spawn in pairs—in shoals and masses.

Q. Well, have you any knowledge of the time in which the young fish are produced from the egg—what season of the year?—A. No; I cannot find that out—I have to observe when I can. I understand the sockeye comes out in the following spring.

Q. Then an estimation would be about the same time?—A. About the same time, I suppose.

Q. Have you seen parrs?—A. Yes, plentifully; I never saw the smolt but plenty of parrs. I think the fish stay less time than in England. I do not think they stay above one year, but you must recollect I never fished for small fish; those I have seen would not be above 8 or 9 inches long.

Q. Then you think fish in Cowichan stream very like fish of eastern provinces and Great Britain?—A. Well, they are very nearly but there is a great difference, too. Now in England many poachers will catch smolts without scales, or they will come off in their hands, but I have never seen that here.

Q. The practice you speak of is done with fly fishing?—A. Yes.

Q. Any fly fishing practiced here?—A. No; very little.

Q. And these smolt have scales before they go to sea?—A. Oh, yes; they would not live in the sea without the scales.

Q. Then you draw the conclusion that spring salmon or “quinnat” is very nearly identical with the salmon of the eastern provinces and Great Britain?—They are very similar.

Q. And should the same protection be afforded here or not?—A. I think the same protection should be afforded here, certainly.

Q. Are any of those “quinnat” salmon both red and white-meated?—A. They are.

Q. At what season more numerous?—A. Well, I have never noticed them in the Cowichan; as far as I have seen they are all red-meated there.

Q. Can you assign any reason for this?—A. Well, I cannot say. I have an idea they may be fish returning from the upper waters.

Q. Then spring salmon become white-meated after spawning?—A. Yes; there is no doubt they are much like the habits of salmon in England and elsewhere, except as regards the smolts; they are quite different.

Q. And do you think these white fish are spent fish that have spawned and lost their colour?—A. Oh, no; I do not think so. The spring salmon when they run in they do not stay long in tidal water, but go up to the pools and stay there.

Q. And then the habits of all salmon are to have feeding grounds in the deep sea and breeding grounds in fresh water?—A. Yes; but I think these spring salmon have also feeding places in fresh water. Now many opening a salmon here would think there is nothing in it; now a salmon's stomach in the sea is very large and capable of holding two or three herrings; now in the river it is not larger than that pencil.

Q. He does not feed?—A. But he does though, I think. It might be a provision of nature to make room for his eggs.

Q. But do not you think it a wise provision of nature that fish should not eat their own progeny?—A. I do not know a fish but does not eat their own young, not even the soft-mouthed fish that does not.

Q. But, is it not generally accepted that salmon do not eat in fresh water?—A. It is, but this is a different genus of fish. Of course it has not been sufficiently found out, but I think if it could be it would be found they do eat.

Q. But if many thousands of salmon were found on dissection with stomachs sealed and nothing in them, would it not be a certificate that they do not eat in fresh water?—A. Yes, it would; but these Cowichan salmon are different. It would apply to salmon in the east, but these I consider eat. I would like to examine them and know more about them before expressing myself definitely.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Will the mountain trout eat the ova of the salmon?—A. Certainly they will.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. It is a well known theory that all fish live upon smaller ones?—A. Oh, yes ; suckers, too, are destructive to the spawn.

Q. How can suckers eat the eggs of the salmon if imbedded in the gravel?—A. Well, but there are many loose.

Q. But would not they be the eggs of other fish lying on the bottom?—A. Well, perhaps so.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. What are these trout, Mr. Green?—A. Well, that is what I want to get at myself. I have seen young salmon sold as trout. There are two trout here—the steel-head is one, and the other is the common trout.

Q. Are you acquainted with the salmon trout that frequent the Great Lakes?—A. Yes ; there are two trout here.

Q. Is it possible to distinguish the young salmon from the trout?—A. Yes ; quite easily. The trout are all larger—have nine rays in caudal fin, and all salmon have from eleven to fourteen.

Q. But the transverse bars are very small, and it is very difficult for an ordinary person to distinguish the difference?—A. Oh, yes ; you could not tell them at all but for the fins—you could not tell them but for them.

MR. HIGGINS.—What I want to find out, Mr. Wilmot—I am getting from you—that is what I complained of before. You are, of course, a gentleman known to be familiar with these things ; but I am not, and wish to get my information from the witnesses who appear before us.

MR. WILMOT.—Right, sir ; proceed.

MR. HIGGINS.—Are these trout sold in the markets as young salmon or not?

MR. GREEN.—Well, I could not tell that. I never see many that I would know not salmon.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Well, I know it is held by many people that they are not trout, but that all are salmon in different stages of development.—A. Yes ; that is quite extensively.

Q. And do you think if more salmon trout were destroyed, more salmon would be preserved?—A. Oh, yes ; certainly. The less salmon destroyed, the more, of course, would come to maturity ; but then the trout are a good fish and can be netted by millions in the Fraser River and Cowichan especially.

Q. What do you think of fish going up river and dying?—A. Well, a great many die, but not all. I could not give the percentage, but I feel sure many die.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Do you see many dead fish in Cowichan River?—A. Oh, yes ; many of them. Now, I have heard gentlemen here state they found 700 dead fish, but you go and pick up 700 and you will pretty well clean them out. I think the dead ones small in proportion to those that go up.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. You speak of a small river.—A. Oh, yes. Of course, in a small river the dead would not be so many as in a great river where they would have to go farther.

Q. Then you do not think all fish that go up die?—A. Oh, no ; certainly not.

Q. In regard to "quinnat" salmon for food, what is your opinion of them for that?—A. Well, if they be culls, they are well amended culls, indeed. I do not think they are inferior ; many people like them better than red salmon, but they will not sell at all.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. May I ask you your experience in regard to salmon in England and Scotland, etc.?—A. I have had very little experience in Scotland or elsewhere.

Q. But have you noticed that the male salmon at rutting time has a large excretion on the lower jaw?—A. Yes; he has, and then goes to the sea and sheds it.

Q. It is thought here by a large number of persons that they do not do this.—A. Oh, well I think they do.

Q. Have you noticed all male fish carry it?—A. Yes.

Q. Do sockeye the same thing?—A. Yes; but not so strongly pronounced.

Q. Then with regard to colour of salmon—does it colour from a bright red colour to one much lighter?—A. Oh yes.

Q. And you think salmon here are very like salmon on the Atlantic coast and elsewhere?—A. They are very much alike anyway—more so than any other fish we have here.

Q. Do you know in other countries that a certain number of fish die after spawning?—A. Certainly they do from the same cause as here—fungus.

Q. And in a river here with so many more fish—millions of them—that there would be more of those dead fish?—A. Yes; naturally there would be only numbers in greater proportion—in these rivers so rocky and rapid they are more liable to get scratched, etc., and then fungus grows upon them.

Q. Is it not liable on account of the great number of nets here that fish would get abrasions, etc.?—A. Well, I do not know—they are so much more liable to get damaged on rocks, etc., in going up streams.

Q. Could you angle for salmon in these rivers?—A. There are no more than a dozen rivers in British Columbia where you can catch fish with a fly.

Q. Have you caught them with a fly in the Cowichan?—A. Some have been taken—grilse.

Q. Then from the whole aspect of evidence and from personal knowledge the quinnat should appear very similar to all other fish in all other parts of the world?—A. The quinnat is very similar.

Q. Is the Cowichan frozen over?—A. No; not at all. I don't think we have any rivers that would be frozen over unless at the mouths.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Do you think quinnat and sockeye are identical?—A. No—not at all—everything is different—the points and everything are different. I think the coho has more rays than the quinnat. I would not be quite certain.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Is it not characteristic that all the salmon family the world over are distinguished by having a back adipose fin?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. The same brood perhaps, but not the same family?—A. Exactly.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Are oulachons put down in the salmon family?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Have you ever classed the humpback family?—A. Yes; I know them well.

Q. What family?—A. They are salmon—they belong to the same family as quinnat, but they are a different species.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. You know the humpback well with hump on back?—A. Oh, yes—it is a male fish only.

Q. Do not all male fish of the salmon family change very much when they come in from the sea?—A. Yes; very materially.

Q. And persons not knowing would consider them different fish?—A. Yes; that has been done. I have known persons to make a difference when they were weighing out fish, but the sockeye does not change. I have seen them at Lillooet just as fresh as when they left the sea.

Mr. WILMOT.—Thank you, sir; the information you have given us is of great interest.

Mr. Green thereupon left the stand.

The Commission decided to issue a subpoena for the attendance of Mr. W. H. Dempster, of the Skeena River, at present in Victoria, but about to leave for the Skeena that afternoon at 5 p.m. The subpoena was issued and served.

At 1.15 p.m. the Chairman declared the Commission adjourned, to meet again at the same place at 2.30 p.m.

VICTORIA, 4th March, 1892.

Afternoon Session.

The Commission reassembled, and was called to order at 2.30 p.m.

Present: Mr. S. Wilmot, presiding; Mr. Sheriff Armstrong and Secretary Winter.

Mr. WILLIAM H. DEMPSTER, a native of England, 13 years in British Columbia, a resident of Victoria, a salmon canner operating on the Skeena River, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Do you desire to submit anything to this Commission of your own accord?—A. Well, I do not know as I have much to submit.

Q. The Commission is open to receive any information you are desirous of giving.—A. Well, I came here to answer any question that may be put to me.

Q. Where is your fishing limit?—A. On the Skeena River.

Q. About 600 miles up the coast?—A. 600 miles.

Q. Is it a large river?—A. About two and a half miles wide where we do business. I think more water comes down the Fraser than the Skeena. We are really fishing in an arm of the sea; the tides rise about 30 miles above where we are situated.

Q. What is the name of your cannery?—A. The "Windsor" cannery, the farthest up the river.

Q. And up to the lakes how far is it?—A. 180 miles.

Q. Is it a free running river—free running all the way—no mill dams in the way—any falls or other obstructions to the ascent of fish?—A. Nothing of that kind.

Q. The lakes—are they large and many?—A. There are quite a number; the main lake is 110 miles long, fed by tributary streams.

Q. Is there a boundary established for the limit of fishing?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where might that be?—A. About three miles above our cannery.

Q. How wide is the river at that point?—A. I should judge about a mile and a half to a mile and three-quarters.

Q. Are there high tides there where the limit is?—A. About 15 feet; there are 21 feet where we are situated.

Q. Are there other canneries on that river?—A. There are seven others, and one in course of erection.

Q. Is the "Balmoral" one of the syndicate?—A. Yes; and the new cannery being erected is being put up by the North Pacific Company. The North Pacific Company is the syndicate.

(Consulting map.) Q. Then one furthest down on same side of Inlet, what is that?—A. That is the "Inverness."

Q. Then there are eight canneries altogether on that limit?—A. Yes.

Q. Are all about the same capacity?—A. Yes, about the same.

Q. What is the average capacity?—A. About 20,000 cases—that would be the outside limit.

Q. What is the end of the Inlet like—does it open directly out to the sea or is it shut in by the island?—A. It is shut in by the island—County Island lies right in, the middle.

Q. How far up is it from the island to the boundary?—A. About seventeen or eighteen miles.

Q. Is fishing carried on then wholly between the island and the boundary or farther out?—A. No; we don't go any farther out.

Q. The outlet from this inlet at the point of the island is how wide?—A. I should judge it to be about three or four miles—that is each outlet before you reach mainland from the island.

By Mr. Dempster:

Q.—You are not speaking of Inverness Slough—as one of those islands causes Inverness Slough you know—forms a slough.

By Mr. Wilnot:

Q. Do fish come up that slough?—A. Oh, yes; that slough is about half a mile wide.

Q. And the outlets from the sea?—A. Are about three miles wide.

Q. Are there any other streams or rivers running into this inlet below the boundary?—A. Well, there is one on which the "Balmoral" cannery is established—it is small and not a salmon stream at all.

Q. What description of nets are used there?—A. We use the five and three-quarter inch mesh.

Q. All drift nets—any seines?—A. No seines.

Q. Is there such a place as Hazelton on the river?—A. Yes.

Q. How far is it from the boundary?—A. 180 miles. It is at the forks of the Skeena.

Q. How many boats have you there?—A. Forty.

Q. Are you all limited to forty or is a certain number given to the river?—A. We get forty each—there are 300 for all the river—200 for the canners and 100 for outside licenses.

Q. Outside licenses would mean to whom?—A. Indians—all Indians—there are no whitemen there.

Q. Then 200 are taken by canneries and 100 under Indian names?—A. Well, we pay for them—they won't pay anything.

Q. All are then properly the canners' licenses?—A. Yes; the canners' licenses.

Q. Would it interfere with your business if all the 300 were taken out in the names of canners?—A. I don't think so.

Q. Then of what use is it taking them in the names of Indians?—A. I don't know.

Q. But it is done? A. Yes.

Q. And you charge them for licenses?—A. No—we don't charge them—they absolutely refuse to pay licenses at all. They never have on the Skeena.

Q. Then the mode of fishing is the same as on the Fraser River and other rivers—by use of drift-nets and boats, and drifting is carried out between the boundary and down below the island?—A. Yes.

Q. Fishing equally all down to the island?—A. Yes; about equally.

Q. Will you have all the 300 boats out at one time?—A. Yes; we can only fish about ten hours in twenty-four.

Q. What fish do you generally catch there?—A. Sockeye, but we have spring salmon as well—they come in about 1st of May.

Q. Were you present when a Mr. Green was giving his evidence?—A. No, I was not.

Q. The spring salmon are larger than sockeye?—A. They will average about twenty pounds.

Q. Have you experienced that spring salmon will be some white and some red?—A. Yes.

Q. When do the white predominate more?—A. In all seasons about 20 per cent would be white and the balance red.

Q. Do salmon go up all the length of the Skeena to the lakes?—A. I believe they do.

- Q. And do they go into small streams to spawn?—A. I think so.
- Q. In what month?—A. In August and September.
- Q. Do you know them to spawn in October?—A. No, I don't think so—I never was there in October.
- Q. They might spawn after October, might they?—A. They might, but they all pass up in July.
- Q. Do all these spring salmon, as is related by many others, die and not return to the sea?—A. I cannot answer that question—great numbers of them die I know.
- Q. Do you think any return?—A. I think some do but very few.
- Q. Have you ever seen them?—A. I have seen them in September floating around almost dead, but I do not think they ever get to salt water to do any good.
- Q. Do you think they recover from their prostration?—A. No, I do not.
- Q. How is the species kept up then?—A. By the supply—the deposit of spawn every year would keep up the supply.
- Q. Then you think it no use fish renewing their propagating qualities?—A. It has not been shown that they do die.
- Q. But if it were shown us some do?—A. Well, I do not think they do—the river is very rocky and rapid and they get worn out.
- Q. If it were shown that fish go up 800, 900, and 1,000 miles what would you say?—A. Well, I think they do that in the Skeena—they go in Babin Lake.
- Q. And your impression is they do not return?—A. I do not think they return to do any good.
- Q. Is that the impression of Indians and other inhabitants?—A. I do not know what their impressions are.
- Q. You catch you say these spring salmon for canning purposes?—A. Yes.
- Q. To any extent?—A. No, they are not very numerous.
- Q. What do you do with white ones?—A. Nothing, we give them to Indians.
- Q. Do they consume all of them?—A. Well, most of them.
- Q. And those they do not?—A. We salt them—cut the bellies out and salt them.
- Q. What weight would you salt?—A. About seven pounds.
- Q. And then the balance out of the twenty pound fish is what?—A. It is thrown away—there is no demand for it.
- Q. Thrown away as offal is it?—A. Yes.
- Q. You see no possibility of converting it into a commercial article?—A. No, we have tried.
- Q. What is the reason?—A. The colour.
- Q. And they are not saleable as a salt fish?—A. They would not pay the expense of the barrel and salt.
- Q. Where have you shipped them to?—A. Canada and the Sandwich Islands and Australia.
- Q. Do you speak of Canada as being a foreign country to this?—A. No, but then we call it always Canada, in the old way.
- Q. Then for your own taste one is as good as another?—A. No, they are not as good—there is very little difference but one is superior to the other—in England the colour is a great objection.
- Q. Yes, I know—I remember in England in '83 the Skeena salmon took the prize over all others. Now, your chief fish is sockeye—when do they come in?—A. About the 1st of June I think.
- Q. When do they spawn?—A. About the same time as spring salmon; perhaps a little later, about September.
- Q. Do any of those return?—A. I have never seen them.
- Q. Could they return without you seeing them?—A. I suppose they could.
- Q. When do you knock off work?—A. About the 1st of August.
- Q. And consequently as those fish would not be returning until later you would not see them?—A. Well, we could see some of them.
- Q. Do you see any dead fish of this kind?—A. Well, not many; we do see them.
- Q. Do you see any in a weak state and emaciated?—A. Yes; I have seen many of them up the river; they were just floating along; they did not seem to have strength to swim down.

Q. What is the average size of sockeye you can?—A. About six pounds.

Q. Then your fish are smaller than in other rivers; do you ever get above six pounds?—A. The average is about six pounds; we catch them sometimes seven or eight pounds.

Q. How many cans of fish will you make from each fish?—A. They run from 11 to 12 to the case.

Q. What might be the average number of your boats' take daily; in a big run say?—A. About 250 to the boat, and in a small ordinary run about 50.

Q. An average, then, of about 150, taking one year with another?—A. About that.

Q. Have you ever counted up the average of each boat for the season, the gross number?—A. From 2,000 to 3,000.

Q. What do you do with offal?—A. Throw it in the river.

Q. Does it create any sort of unpleasantness, or is it carried away immediately?—

A. It is carried away every time; we have a six knot current that carries everything out to sea.

Q. Is any lodgment made on land below?—A. No; it is an iron-bound coast; we have no inhabitants except Indians.

Q. Are any complaints made?—A. I have never heard of any.

Q. And there are no white people there to affect?—A. No; there never will be; there is no agricultural or growing country that I know of.

Q. Should it not produce wealth and inhabitants?—A. It may in time.

Q. Then offal is carried away and causes no injury to anybody?—A. None at all.

Q. Are you satisfied with limitation of nets you have in regard to numbers?—A. Yes, sir; perfectly satisfied.

Q. What effect would it have if you were lessened in number?—A. It would make our fish more expensive, and curtail our work. You see we can only fish 10 hours in the 24, and only for two and a half months.

Q. Seines are not used, I think you say?—A. No, sir; they are not used.

Q. Do you know the effect of seine fishing compared with drift net fishing?—A. I don't know anything about it.

Q. What about the close season?—A. It would suit us all right at present if it was made movable to suit the tides. Now, sometimes when 12 o'clock comes on Saturday the tide is not suitable to go out, and often we have to knock off at 10 o'clock; this changes monthly, and we would like the time made to suit the tides; it would leave 36 hours close time just the same.

Q. Do your Indians fish on Sunday at all?—A. They will not fish on Sunday.

Q. You mean the whole 24 hours?—A. Till 12 o'clock Sunday night.

Q. Then the six hours after 6 o'clock on Sunday—they would not work because it is Sunday?—A. No, sir.

Q. Have you anything to say about an annual close season?—A. No; I have nothing to say about that.

Q. Do you think it advisable?—A. We do not need it up there.

Q. But for the community at large what would you say?—A. Oh, have one if it affects the community at large.

Q. If fishermen other than yourselves and Indians apply for licenses would you object to giving them to them?—A. No; we would not.

Q. Then it would be just to give all residents and British subjects a license if they wanted it?—A. Yes.

Q. What about the transfer of licenses; do you think it should be done?—A. No, I think not; I think they should not be transferable.

Q. But is it not a fact now you get licenses in Indian names?—A. They are really our own licenses; we pay for them; the Indians absolutely refused to pay for them.

Q. Then on the fees of licenses?—A. We are perfectly satisfied on that point.

Q. Should they be alike throughout the province or different for your river?—A. I think they should be general throughout the province.

Q. Have you anything further to submit, sir?—A. I cannot think of anything at present.

Q. You have no wants or complaints to make?—A. No; except that one question of close time. I would like to make it movable.

Q. Is the catch regular with your river—on and off years?—A. It is pretty regular throughout. We have no periodical failures at all.

Q. How long has fishing been carried on there?—A. Fourteen years. Of course, some years we have lighter years than others, but we have no periodical runs like in the Fraser River.

Q. Have you humpbacks entering that river?—A. Yes; largely. We cannot help catching them.

Q. When do they come in?—A. They come in with the sockeyes.

Q. And both are caught in the net at the same time?—A. Yes.

Q. And what do you do with them?—A. We can the sockeye, but throw away the humpback mostly.

Q. Are they very numerous?—A. Yes; very numerous. They injure the fishing very much.

Q. In what respect?—A. They spoil our nets. Last year they were so plentiful they would sink the nets.

Q. But fish, nevertheless, would be taken out of the nets?—A. Yes; they were fastened in the net.

Q. Would the quantity caught in the net per day be equal to the sockeye?—A. Oh, ten times over. We would probably catch twenty or thirty sockeye and two or three hundred humpbacks.

Q. And two or three hundred humpbacks are sacrificed to twenty sockeye?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you any idea of what means could be instituted to prevent the destruction of such immense quantities of fish?—A. We would like to see them all destroyed.

Q. And this practice has been going on of destroying the humpbacks. Are they not diminished?—A. Well, there are some years when the humpbacks do not come in such numbers, and sometimes we do not see them at all.

Q. Are humpbacks larger than sockeyes?—A. No; they are a little smaller.

Q. When they come in from sea, are there humps on the fish?—A. No; it comes on afterwards.

Q. Humps are on male fish only?—A. Oh, male only.

Q. Is there another run after sockeyes and humpbacks?—A. Yes; cohoes. We never fish them. They are inferior to sockeyes.

Q. Are they inferior for domestic use?—A. Yes; they are inferior fish in every case.

Q. What is the colour of the flesh?—A. A light pink.

Q. Do they spawn about the same time as sockeye?—A. A little later.

Q. Then the only valuable fish, or the more valuable fish, is altogether a sockeye? You depend, as a canner, upon them for the bulk of your traffic?—A. Yes; that is the only one will pay.

Q. Are there any marks on the sockeye, between the male and female, so you can tell them?—A. No; it is later on in the season when we can tell them.

Q. By what distinguishing mark?—A. There is a hook on the lower jaw of the male.

Q. Have you ever fished anywhere else but in British Columbia?—A. I have fished on the River Restigouche.

Q. Is there any difference between spring salmon and Restigouche salmon in size, quality or appearance?—A. Skeena salmon are much larger; the qualities are about the same.

Q. And what is the average of Skeena salmon?—A. Twenty pounds.

Q. And is not the average in the Restigouche at the early part of the season twenty pounds?—A. No; not in the early part of the season.

Q. I may say I have fished Restigouche salmon myself and have averaged twenty-three pounds.—A. Yes, but you fished with a fly did you not?

Q. Oh, yes; I know the fly gets the big fish. May I ask have you tried to catch fish in your river with the fly?—A. Yes, but it has not been successful.

Q. The Restigouche only lately has been used for fly fishing—now it brings in ten, twenty, and thirty thousand dollars for fly fishing yearly—you should try and encourage

this here—I simply mention this to show that the salmon here are identical with salmon elsewhere. If the Americans were aware that you could catch salmon here with a fly they would come and you would do well with them.—A. They have plenty of salmon rivers of their own—the Columbia River is a better salmon river than ours.

Q. But is not the Columbia River muddy from the melting snows, etc., that come down from the mountains?—A. Well, our Skeena rises in the same way.

Q. Yes, but your waters are clear are they not?—A. Yes, they are.

Q. Is there any deep sea fishing in the neighbourhood of the Skeena River—are cod or halibut taken there?—A. No, not near the Skeena—there are good banks near the Skeena but it is not worked—it is only prospected as yet—the Indians get any quantity of halibut, in the vicinity of the estuary.

Q. And then the black cod?—A. Well, they are near the Queen Charlotte Islands.

Q. And the halibut—it has only lately been found out?—A. Well, the Indians have been fishing there for many years.

Q. Then there may be a great source of wealth near there for working up—what other fishes have you there?—A. There is the dog-fish valuable for its oil.

Q. Could not offal be used up for the same purpose?—A. Well, I don't think it would pay.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Is there an oil factory up there?—A. I am interested in one myself.

Q. What becomes of the refuse from dog-fish oil?—A. Well, there is very little—the oil is tried out by steam and the refuse is thrown out.

Q. How long has it been working?—A. Last year was the first.

Q. Did you put up much oil?—A. 23,000 gallons.

Q. Did you think in the commencement of the industry that would be profitable?—A. I think so.

Q. What is the value of dog-fish oil?—A. 45 cents a gallon.

Q. Is the establishment carried on by canners or a company of others?—A. A company of their own.

Q. Where from?—A. Victoria.

Q. Do you use any other fish except dog-fish?—A. We use small ground shark sometimes.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Is oulachon caught there?—A. Yes, quite extensively.

Q. Are herring plentiful along the coast?—A. Yes, I think they are.

Q. Has any attempt been made to utilize herring as an article of commerce?—A. Not just yet.

Q. Do you think as time goes on, herring might be sufficiently numerous to make it profitable?—A. Well, they will not compare with Atlantic herring—they are smaller fish.

Q. Mackerel is not known then?—A. No.

Q. Would you consider the introduction of mackerel a good thing?—A. I think it would if it could be successfully introduced.

Q. Have you any oysters there?—A. No.

Q. Any lobsters?—A. No; none.

Q. If oysters were introduced here and did well, would it be an addition to the fishery wealth?—A. Yes.

Mr. DEMPSTER.—I may say that dog-fish oil is worth 45 cents in cans, but only 35 cents in barrels.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Have you ever taken any shad in your waters?—A. No.

Q. Do you know they have been introduced in Pacific waters?—A. I have heard so.

Q. Shad have also been caught at the mouth of the Fraser River. I may mention that I am asking all these questions because this Commission is not only for dealing

with the canners' matters, but also for the purpose of finding out all information bearing on the question of the fisheries, etc., etc. Then this oil factory has proved successful so far?—A. Yes.

Q. And you propose continuing operations with the dog-fish and ground shark?—A. Yes.

Q. How far is it from your establishment?—A. About 60 miles. It is on Queen Charlotte Islands.

Q. My object in asking these questions is that if dog-fish can be profitably converted into oil, why could not offal be converted into oil and made a profitable article of commerce?—A. You must remember the dog-fish oil is much superior to salmon oil.

Q. Have you seen salmon oil?—A. Yes; we manufactured it at our cannery. We tried it, but it don't pay.

Q. Do you think then all this offal thrown away could be converted into oil?—A. I suppose it could.

Q. Are humpback salmon caught more numerous than dog-fish?—A. Oh, yes; dog-fish are caught with hook and line, and humpback with nets.

Q. What is the size of your dog-fish?—A. I should judge they would weigh 7 or 8 pounds.

Q. Then they are not larger than humpbacks?—A. The livers are almost all oil. About two-thirds comes out of the liver and one-third from the rest of the body.

Q. In your trials in regard to salmon oil, did you try the humpback at all?—A. No; not at all.

Q. Are not humpbacks a fat fish?—A. No; not as fat as sockeye.

Q. But there would be oil in them?—A. Oh, yes; but it is doubtful if they would pay.

Q. The reason I ask these questions is with the view of the department, if possible, suggesting the use of these humpbacks that are all now thrown away, and they may be converted into a useful article of commerce. Is there anything further, sir, you would wish to say?—A. No; nothing further.

Mr. JAMES L. RAYMOND, a native of England, 28 years in British Columbia, an accountant and resident of Victoria, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What do you wish to submit?—A. Well, I was asked so come here to answer any questions. I was manager of the oil factory for two years situated where the city of Vancouver is now.

Q. What did you convert into oil there?—A. Herrings.

Q. You tried any other description of material?—A. No; we had all the herrings we could use.

Q. Were herrings very numerous?—A. They were at that time.

Q. What was the result?—A. We lost \$40,000 in two years and then shut it up.

Q. And for what reason; was it the markets?—A. It was due to the entire inability to dry the scrap.

Q. You take the oil off and then the scrap is what is left?—A. Yes; but we could not make any use of it; we could not dry it.

Q. I notice from a former witness that the refuse was very little?—A. That was from dog-fish, but then they try it out in a very different manner.

Q. Could you not do the same?—A. No, not with herrings; they would have all gone to pulp.

Q. Do you know of oil factories on the Atlantic?—A. Yes.

Q. You know of Menhaden?—A. Yes; but they run in summer time and the scrap is dried like soil, while we ran in the winter time and it was raining all the time.

Q. How about the oil?—A. There was no market for it in this country and it had to be shipped to England.

Q. Do not other industries have to ship their products to England, the canners, for instance?—A. Yes, but salmon tins do not leak; about 20 per cent of ours leaked out; it has to go through the tropics twice; it also has the effect of shrinking the barrels.

Q. Well, generally speaking, the trade coal oil is the most penetrating in the world, yet it is shipped all over?—A. Yes; but you can only get soft wood barrels in this country.

Q. Then your experiment was unprofitable?—A. Unprofitable; if we could have dried the fertilizer it would have been all right.

Q. Has the effects of the oil factory's operations driven away herring?—A. Well, I don't know; think it is steamers and pollution (population) (?) that has done that; it had no effect while I was there whatever.

Q. Then you attribute the absence of herring in the Sound to steam-boats and people?—A. Yes; the traffic; when we were there there were plenty of fish in the harbour; we failed the first year, and then an expert was sent out from the East and he put in a drier that he said would do but it utterly failed. I am talking of the scrap—he came out—a man named Demesque, and he put in an artificial drier, but it would not do; if it is not dry in twenty-four hours it commences to foment and you can do nothing with it at all.

Q. Well, the Ontario Agricultural Department says it can be made into a good thing? Have you read the recent article in the *Colonist* on the matter?—A. I have seen something about it, but you cannot dry it.

Q. But they say it can be worked up?—A. Oh, you can dry one ton of it all right in a day, but when you have ten tons to work up in a day you cannot do it.

Q. Well, now this is what Professor James says (*Victoria Colonist*, 20th February, 1892). These are his conclusions:—

"From the consideration of the whole question, I am of the opinion that the manufacture of the refuse into fertilizer is strongly to be recommended, because—

"1st. It will thus utilize a bye-product that otherwise is a total loss.

"2nd. It will prevent the waters from being contaminated.

"3rd. Its proper management must tend towards a more healthful surrounding.

"4th. Its return to the soils of the farm will partly off-set the waste of our cities by sewerage carried to the lakes and rivers.

"5th. If properly handled it will pay well.

"From the great importance of this question to the health of the community, the welfare of the fishing industry and the progress of agriculture, I have endeavoured to reply at this length."

It is also stated that the value of this guano in Ontario is about \$34 a ton.—A. Well, I beg to differ from that entirely; I think we got \$10 a ton for it, but we could not make it a success. We had to take tons of it out into English Bay to get rid of it; we built a scow with a false bottom and had to take it out there.

Q. Well, we have heard that the offal that was thrown in had prevented herring from going in?—A. I may say we got £7 10s. for some we sent to England, but it all depends on the quantity of ammonia and phosphates in it. We used to boil the fish in an open tank and then subject them to hydraulic pressure and if they did not dry in 24 hours, the ammonia all ran off and the fertilizer was destroyed.

Q. And you then say the trial of making fertilizer from herring was unsuccessful?—A. Certainly.

Q. Are you prepared to say the same thing would occur if oil and fertilizer were made from offal?—A. Well, I think the expenses of taking it to the factory would destroy all chance of profit. We got our fish for next to nothing. They cost us about 75 cents a ton on the wharf.

Q. But if this offal was delivered to you?—A. Well, somebody must pay for it. I do not think it would be successful. If the herring get the least bit bad the oil is spoilt and offal would soon go bad in the same way.

Q. Then is oil made instantly from dog-fish?—A. Oh, no; it of course takes a few hours.

Q. Do you wish to submit any other matters?—A. No; that is the only matter with which I am acquainted.

The CHAIRMAN.—We are much obliged to you, sir.

Mr. WILLIAM HENRY LOMAS, a native of England, resident in British Columbia for 29 years, a resident of Cowichan, an Indian Agent of the Federal Government, was duly sworn.

Before proceeding with this witness, the question arose upon a query of J. H. Todd and others present, as to whether or not Mr. Ashdown Green, a previous witness, had been sworn prior to his giving evidence. Several of the audience contended that he had not, although the Secretary on being appealed to and turning back to his notes of Mr. Green's testimony, found that he was on record as having been duly sworn—still, in view of the doubt entertained by some, the Chairman gave instructions for the recall of Mr. Green on the following day to settle the point in question.

By Mr. Wilmot (to Mr. Lomas):

Q. What do you wish to submit to this Board?—A. I would like to say a few words in regard to the oyster fishery, but before doing so, I would like to say something of Cowichan River omitted by Mr. Green, through, I believe, want of knowledge of the river. Some four or five years ago the sockeye were put in the river two years running, some four or five millions were put in and certain numbers have returned; they go to the head of Cowichan River.

Q. How long ago is that, sir?—A. About four or five years. They were never known there before, but now they are in small quantities, hundreds of them but not near so many as you see of other fish.

Q. Then you consider that the result of planting them there artificially has this effect?—A. Yes; and I may say they are found several miles up river beyond their spawning ground.

Q. And thus I suppose these little fellows have gone off hunting homes for themselves.—A. They went down first, sir,—of course they went down.

Q. And were any quinnat put in the river?—A. No; not at all.

Q. And then you think it sufficient proof that artificial breeding is successful—that it is proof of the hatchery success?—A. Oh, certainly—I may say the Indians were so surprised at seeing them there they brought the first one to me.

Q. What size was it?—A. Oh, a five pound one.

Q. Have you anything else to say on this matter?—A. Well, Mr. Green spoke of fish returning, but I believe no salmon return except the steel-head, and that I think is more of a trout.

Q. You are practically acquainted with the character of the steel-head?—A. Yes.

Q. Would you give us a description?—A. They grow quite as large as quinnat and run in December, about Christmas time—say from end of November to January—it depends a great deal on the state of the river. The Cowichan is so low that large fish cannot run up—the steel-head never come into the bay until the other fish have gone up—they wait until dog-fish and cohoes have gone, and then after about a week or two they go up too.

Q. Why are they called “steel-heads”?—A. It is the fishermen's name for them—Indians have another name altogether.

Q. And they are about the same as spring salmon?—A. Yes; very similar when they come in—when they go back they are long and narrow—they lie in the river all summer and then go out in the fall.

Q. They come in when you say?—A. About December.

Q. And what is the time when they spawn?—A. I should say about March, but you can find them in a great many of the pools all through the summer.

Q. Are they salmon or trout?—A. Well, Mr. Green calls them trout.

Mr. WILMOT.—Is Mr. Ewen here? Mr. Ewen.—Yes.

Q. May I ask you, Mr. Ewen, if the salmon we saw in New Westminster the other day on the slabs at the market—were they steel-heads?—Yes.

Mr. WILMOT.—They are identical to my eyes with Atlantic salmon.

Mr. LOMAS.—They will take a fly freely.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, it is a peculiarity, certainly, I must say.

Mr. EWEN.—I may state that when they are seen in the Fraser River—when they are in good condition—it is from end of July and in August and September—the next year they scarcely get down in condition and you are liable to get them in all stages throughout the year.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, these we saw were so regular in symmetry and so bright in colour that I thought they were exactly like the Atlantic salmon—we had one sent to the hotel and had it for dinner, but it was a very poor fish—not at all nice—and yet its appearance was very prepossessing—it may of course have been in the cooking, but some gentlemen sitting at the table with me said “what a poor ordinary fish.” Then the steel-head you do not consider the true salmon?—A. No—I do not think them true salmon.

Q. But they return?—A. Yes; in full force.

Q. And other fish all die?—A. Yes; all die—I am perfectly certain that cohoes and dog-fish never return—some of the spring salmon may.

Q. Did you say you saw some sockeye return?—A. I saw some up at Cowichan Lake, but I could not say about them returning.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. How far is it from the lake to the river?—A. The river is about 23 or 24 miles long, and the lake is about the same length; they were planted in a little stream off the lake; the trout also spawn there, but they do not spawn until March.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Now, on the subject of the oyster?—A. Well, I wish to say for the last five or six years I have been writing to the department, asking them to make some provision for protecting the oysters. At Oyster Harbour there is a great many oysters, and they have been fished very much. A man there has no title to any place, and fishing goes on every month in the year.

Q. And you think oysters were very plentiful there?—A. Yes; and many beds are now depleted.

Q. And these effects have been brought about by over-fishing?—A. Yes; that is the effect with regard to oysters.

Q. And would it not apply to any other fish?—A. Yes; I suppose it would. The oysters are taken along shore to be cleaned; they scrape all the spat off and let it lie on shore, that should have been left on the beds. I sent a bag of them to the department to show how they were being destroyed.

Q. Then you think there should be a protective season for oysters?—A. Yes; there should be.

Q. And who would that effect?—A. A few whitemen and Indians.

Q. And with the desire to enforce a close season and judicious regulations the Government is brought directly in contact with those who carry on that work?—A. Oh, no; I do not see it that way. Every one who is interested in the oyster fishery wants to see it protected and improved.

Q. And are native oysters in much demand?—A. Oh, yes; it is considered a very fine oyster.

Q. The present mode in the United States and Canada is to give persons licensed areas.—A. I may say that a few years ago a pamphlet and circular was sent to us and was signed extensively, and the Government was asked to lease areas, etc., but no reply has been received.

Q. Who was the prominent man in sending it?—A. Mr. Connolly; it came directly from the department.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Then you want the Government to survey the beds and let them to persons to cultivate?—A. Yes.

Q. And the oyster is a good article of food, is it?—A. Yes ; it is a very good oyster.

Q. Well, sir, this matter will be recorded on the minutes and brought forward, and I think the matter will not be allowed to rest entirely.—A. There is another matter, Mr. Wilnot : these small fish, the flounders and smelt ; no regard seems to be paid to them at all. The men who fish for them do not have to get any license or anything. In fishing for these small fish they invariably drag their nets on shore, and great numbers of little fish are left there to die. That matter has been brought to the notice of the Government by the harbour master of Victoria, but nothing seems to have been done.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Well, but I do not understand that. The regulations distinctly say : " Fishing by means of nets or other apparatus, without leases or licenses from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, under the provisions of Chap. 95, Revised Statutes of Canada, and Section 4 thereof, is prohibited in the province of British Columbia."—A. But these men have applied for licenses from time to time, and replies have been received that no licenses were required except for fishing for salmon.

Q. Are you agent of the department also?—A. Yes, I am. I could get you plenty of letters on this matter and giving these answers. I am sure there are plenty of men who would be willing to pay double the license fee if they could get a license to fish for the whitefish, flounders, etc.

Q. What kind of mesh do they use?—A. They use a small mesh dragging on the bottom.

Q. Well it is considered in the department that it was extremely injurious to use these small meshed nets as they were considered to destroy the small salmon and other young fish that may come along ; the duty of an officer who saw these nets fishing would be to seize them, because it is contrary to law, but an officer has brought it to the notice of the department and it is now under consideration. And so you think this fishing for small fish is injurious?—A. Yes ; because the small fish are left on the shore.

Q. What kinds of fish would be taken out to supply the market?—A. Oh, any fish ; unless those little ones of an inch and an inch and a half long.

Q. Then the regulation of the mesh would settle matters would it not?—A. No ; you could not catch smelt or herring with such small mesh.

Q. How would you prevent the destruction of these small fish, then?—A. Not allow them to drag them on shore.

Q. And the fish that are larger could be taken out before they come in shore?—A. Yes.

Q. What sized mesh would allow of the escape of these smaller fish?—A. The fish that I allude to would escape from almost any mesh, but it is the dragging them ashore that causes injury.

Q. Do they get gilled in these nets?—A. Yes ; but not extensively.

Q. I think that is the same experience in seine fishing, they run towards the shore and thus get drawn in the net, that is the experience is it not?—A. Yes. Now, a gentleman was saying the herring had left Vancouver. Now, herring will leave a place and go away for some time, and it is not on account of the steam-boats, for I was in Nanaimo Harbour and there were a great number of them and perhaps in a year or two there may be no herring in Nanaimo and they may be in Cowichan. Places where the Indians have been in the habit of going they find none at all.

Q. They are very erratic then, I presume, in these waters. Regarding oysters, was it suggested that spat from the Atlantic should be sent over?—A. No ; they considered these native oysters were quite as good if cultivated. Some persons have tried it by taking them and putting them at the mouths of streams, etc., and have done very well.

Q. Have you anything further to add, Mr. Lomas?—A. Oh, I don't think so.

Q. Have you anything to submit in regard to any other of your fisheries?—A. No; I would simply suggest that the improvement of the oyster fishery be attended to and that persons who fish on the coast should have licenses to do so and not be allowed to drag the nets ashore.

Q. Have you lobsters here?—A. No.

Q. Crabs?—A. Yes.

Q. Numerous? A. Yes; but there is not any great demand for them.

Q. Have you ever been on the Atlantic coast?—A. No.

Q. A project is on foot to introduce the lobster here, and I merely mention it so, that if you had been on the Atlantic coast you might wish to give us some information on it? These small fish you speak of—what are they?—A. Some smelt and little fish like sardines—the smelt is about the same size on the east coast, but the herring over near Behring Sea are reported to be quite as large as Scotch herring.

Q. But there is no export trade in herring?—A. No; there is quite a demand for the small species—flounders and soles.

Q. Do oulachon frequent this coast?—A. No—not in any quantities.

Q. Would not these small fish be young herring?—A. Oh, yes; some are young of trout—some of herring—some of salmon.

Q. And it is very destructive to drag up these nets on the beach?—A. Oh, yes.

Q. I may say that was the opinion in the department after the receipt of letters from yourself and the inspector—that it was most dangerous to allow these nets to be dragged on shore.—A. I having nothing further to say, gentlemen.

Mr. J. H. TODD.—I would like to ask permission to make a further statement as evidence before the Commission adjourns.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Oh, yes; we have nothing else better to do.

Mr. TODD (indignantly).—Oh, I don't want to say anything—I think it quite a slur to say you have nothing better to do.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Oh, no; I assure you, Mr. Todd, I did not mean anything of the like at all—why you Victoria people are awfully sensitive—I am sure I meant no slur whatever.

Mr. WILMOT.—What did you wish to represent, Mr. Todd?

Mr. TODD.—What I wanted to say was simply about the offal. There is an impression among many people that this offal can be used profitably—now, I just want to say that if some of these experts will come here and manufacture this stuff up, we will be glad to have him and we will even give him a bonus to come and take it away and work it.

Mr. ROBERT WARD.—I would like to ask, Mr. Chairman, if your Board will receive second evidence from any witness who has once been heard?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I may say, Mr. Ward, that although the rule was that no second evidence would be taken, still, if Mr. Ward, or any other gentleman came forward and desired to give evidence I have no doubt my brother Commissioners would be quite willing to hear anything they have to say.

At 4.45 p. m. the Chairman declared the Commission adjourned—to meet again at the same place at 10 a. m., 5th March, 1892.

VICTORIA, B.C., 5th March, 1872.

Morning Session.

The Commission assembled for the hearing of evidence in the Board of Trade Rooms at 10 a.m.

Present: Mr. S. Wilmot, Chairman; Hon. D. W. Higgins, Mr. Sheriff Armstrong and Mr. Secretary Winter.

After calling the Commission to order, the chairman read the following communication which he had received from Mr. W. H. Lomas, Indian Agent at Cowichan, in reference to the protection of oysters in British Columbia:

ORIENTAL HOTEL,

VICTORIA, B.C., 5th March, 1892.

DEAR MR. WILMOT:—Enclosed you will find copies of the letters you asked for. Trusting they may give you information on the oyster subject likely to be acted on.

I am, dear sir, yours truly,

(Signed) W. H. LOMAS.

S. Wilmot, Esq.

The enclosures were then read by the Secretary as follows:

COWICHAN AGENCY,

INDIAN OFFICE, QUAMICHAN, B.C., 27th February, 1892.

SIR,—Referring to your letter of the 15th inst., enclosing copy of report from Mr. Inspector McNab, to the Deputy Minister of Fisheries, "complaining of manner in which oyster beds in this province are worked by the Indians."

I have the honour to state that during the last six or seven years I have repeatedly called the attention of the Fishery Department to the necessity of making some regulation with regard to the gathering of oysters, especially in Oyster Harbour, in which place the largest beds exist.

In the year 1888, I wrote to the late Mr. Inspector Mowat, and at the same time forwarded him by parcel post, a sample of oysters as they are being shipped to market (not by Indians, but by the very white men who are now complaining of the action of Indians.) In the spring of last year, a printed form of petition which I received from the Fishery Department, was signed by nearly every land owner in the neighbourhood asking that the Government put a stop to oyster gathering for a few years and take steps to restock the beds. I enclose a few extracts from letters written on the subject, and have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) W. H. LOMAS, *Indian Agent.*

QUAMICHAN, B.C., 11th Dec., 1888.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward you by parcel post a sample of the oysters being shipped to market, by which you will see that the oysters are being run out.

It is of little use telling me I ought to prosecute any one guilty of violation of the Act, when in the next paragraph you say that the department has made no regulations for oyster fishing in this province.

I am informed that about \$1,000 worth of oysters have been shipped from Oyster Harbour during the last twelve months, and this, as I have before informed you, goes on during every month without regard to the breeding season, and without any attempt to cultivate them. I watched the operation last week, and find the oysters of any age carried ashore and there trimmed for market, instead of being divided over the water and the yearlings and spat dropped back into the water to grow.

Parties gather wherever they choose, and therefore have no interest in the improvement of any particular ground, and the result will be that in a year or two this industry and source of food will be entirely destroyed.

Trusting that you may see the necessity of having suitable regulations made to apply to this province.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) W. H. LOMAS,
Fishery Guardian.

THOS. MOWAT, Esq.,
Inspector of Fisheries, New Westminster.

QUAMICHAN, B.C., 9th Dec., 1890.

SIR,—Referring to your letter of the 5th inst., just received, I have the honour to report that the destruction of small fish complained of by Capt. Clarke, harbour master, Victoria, is not only going on in Victoria, but also in other places. I have several times called the attention of the department to this fact, and also the destruction of the oyster beds; but the only notice taken of my reports has been to make regulations with regard to salmon and trout, which it is almost impossible to carry out.

I would respectfully refer you to my letters of 5th of January, 1889, and 17th January, 1889.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) W. H. LOMAS,
Fishery Guardian.

THOS. MOWAT, Esq.,
Inspector of Fisheries, New Westminster.

QUAMICHAN, B.C., 17th Feb., 1891.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that as soon as possible after the receipt of your communication of the 28th ultimo, I visited Oyster Harbour, and met the only two white men fishing there (Mr. D. Page and Mr. John Brenton), Messrs. Brown and Isom having left the neighbourhood, may be considered as having withdrawn their application for oyster fishing licenses.

Messrs. Brenton and Page say they are not able to get half the quantity of oysters this year that that they did last year, and that the beds are nearly run out.

When application was first made to you for licenses, a kind of mutual agreement was made between these two men and the Indians, and each piece applied for was staked off in my presence; but, on recent visit, I found both Mr. Page and Mr. Brenton gathering oysters from that portion of the harbour applied for by the Indians, and Mr. Page's statement that he has planted oysters for the last five years does not mean that he has cultivated them, but taken them from the front of the Indian reserve and planted them near his own land.

Messrs. Brenton and Page wish me to say that they agree with the clauses of the petition, but do not think that they are justified in signing it without knowing what the regulations will be, and whether the department will be willing to take the matter in hand at once.

Should you think it advisable, I will circulate the petition in the neighbourhood of Oyster Harbour, and I feel sure that nearly every person interested will sign it, as all regret to see the state to which these once productive beds have been allowed to get.

Messrs. Brenton and Page would gladly sign it I believe, if they were assured that they would have the prior right to a lease fronting their property.

I have spoken also to the Indians and they are agreeable to the department taking the matter in hand, but think they ought to have some portion of the harbour set apart to them when the proposed restriction is taken off.

With regard to the standing of the parties named, I may say they both live with Indian women, and I do not think either of them would go to the expense of having the beds they apply for surveyed, let alone spending anything beyond their own time cultivating oysters. The harbour is about five miles long by about three-quarters of a mile wide. Trusting the department may see fit to restock these beds and make the necessary regulations for the better protection of oysters,

I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) W. H. LOMAS,
Fishery Guardian.

THOS. MOWAT, Esq.,
Fishery Inspector, New Westminster.

LEONARD MARTIN, of Victoria, describing himself as of French descent, born in Russia, nine years in British Columbia, a fisherman, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What have you to put before the Commission?—A. Well, sir, I enquired a few years ago and wrote to Mr. Mowat to ask him to give me a license to fish in deep water, but we were not allowed to fish, and here is the answer from Mr. Mowat about it :—

“NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., 10th November, 1890.

“LEONARD MARTIN, Esq.,
“48 Johnston Street, Victoria, B.C.

“SIR,—In reply to your letters of September 26th, October 15th and November 4th, I beg to state that my office here has been closed for a month while I have been capturing fish and collecting salmon ova—there has been no assistant, hence the cause of no reply having been sent you. I now herewith return your post office order for \$5, as we issue no license for fish other than salmon. It is, however, unlawful for you to use a bag-net. I herewith enclose you a copy of the Salmon Fishing Regulations and a copy of return to be filled in for the fish caught or sold during the season and return to me for Government purposes. All other regulations in reference to the fisheries in this province can be had by consulting the Fisheries Act.

“(Signed.) THOMAS MOWAT,
“Inspector of Fisheries.”

Q. Then you did not get a license and got your \$5 back?—A. Yes, sir. And then about ten months ago I went to Quallass Inlet and fished, but they fined me \$22. This is the receipt was sent me for the fines :—

“DUNCAN, B.C., 3rd April, 1891.

“DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of notes value \$22 in payment of fines imposed upon yourself and T. Bengour, and costs, for contravention of the Fisheries Act.

“(Signed.) H. O. WELLBURN,
“Government Agent.

“LEONARD MARTIN, Esq.,
“48 Johnston Street, Victoria, B.C.”

Q. Then you did fish and they thought it contrary to law and you were fined?—A. Yes; I went up to the bay and two other places, and was not allowed to fish in North Saanich—I was not allowed to fish—I only supply the city, and we have only four boats and when the water is very rough we cannot go outside. We are willing to pay—we don't want to live on the country without paying proper fees—we are willing to pay license as long as they allow us to fish in salt water.

Q. Then you see this letter is in November, 1890, in which he sends back the \$5 for license—well, the Order in Council of March, 1890, says fishing by means of nets or
10c—21½

other apparatus without leases or licenses from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is prohibited in all the waters of British Columbia. It seems then he sent his \$5 to get a license.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, you see from section 4, of the Fisheries Act, which says:—

"4. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries may, wherever the exclusive right of fishing does not already exist by law, issue or authorize to be issued fishery leases and licenses for fisheries and fishing wheresoever situated or carried on; but leases or licenses for any term exceeding nine years shall be issued only under authority of the Governor in Council."

This gives the Minister and the Governor in Council power to give leases and licenses.

By Mr. Wilmot.

Q. But, what was your application for?—A. For fishing small fish—herrings, flounders, and small fish to supply the city fish market—we do not fish for the canneries—sometimes, of course, we get some salmon. We use a net 50 fathoms from shore.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. What net do you use?—A. A bag-net.

Q. Well, that is prevented by law?—A. Well, we cannot catch any fish if we cannot use a bag-net—we cannot catch anything.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, but if the Minister thinks proper to admit of special licenses being issued or an Order in Council passed that would allow it, he can do so—but it does not seem as if any order was passed. (The chairman here read over the Regulations for the province of British Columbia), and continued:—You see, Mr. Martin, these say he issues no other licenses except for salmon.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, who does issues them then?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, they never were issued, and the special permission of the Minister is necessary—I may say that it was represented to the department that these bag-nets kill great numbers of young and immature fish, and it is considered that such fishing implements should not be used.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, how are they to get these small fish?

Mr. WILMOT.—They can catch them with small meshed seines, but when it is necessary, application being made through the proper channel, I presume the Government would promote an Order in Council in reference to that matter—but the representations made were that fishing with bag-nets was most injurious, as it took great numbers of small herring and other fish and these small fish were dragged ashore and they decayed in great numbers, and I think the evidence of Mr. Lomas yesterday corroborates that in every particular.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, why could they not be prohibited from putting these small fish on shore, but not shut down altogether on them. If we over-load these fisheries with restrictions they will never do anything with them at all.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Were you here yesterday, Mr. Higgins, when Mr. Lomas was giving evidence on this point?

Mr. HIGGINS.—No.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, the evidence yesterday was most conclusive that large numbers of these young fish were destroyed.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Then you will catch no small fish?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, unless the small mesh net was used and no small fish be dragged ashore. While we are on that subject, I might state that when it was represented to the department it was said that it was not more right for them to throw away these small fish in great numbers than for the canners to throw away so much offal, etc.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, but in the meanwhile what are these men to do?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, it would not do for me to say what they might do in an official capacity.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, but something should be done. Have you ever heard of waste in Esquimalt and Victoria Harbours, Mr. Wilmot?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I do not know, but I think those were mentioned, and representations were made that small salmon were brought in weighing one, two, and three pounds, and these are observable, I think, on the markets every day—Mr. Lomas has been a fishery officer for some time and appears very intelligent and he thinks them young salmon. (To witness.) Well, you say you were refused licenses and afterwards fined for fishing?—A. Yes, I was refused license and then was fined.

Q. It is a bag-net you use?—A. Yes; we use it about fifty fathoms from shore. The mesh is about two and a half to three inches, and the bag is one inch mesh, and small salmon can go through; then it is about forty-five to fifty fathoms long.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, an inch mesh would take everything that came along.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Are you fishing in the harbour now?—A. No.

Q. Where do these little fish come from we see in the market?—A. From Cowichan and from other places.

Q. Where do the oulachons come from I see here now?—A. From Tacoma and along the Sound.

Q. Is it only oulachons they bring?—A. Well, we generally fish out here and get herrings, soles, flounders and small fish; but now we get very few, because we cannot fish with bag-nets.

Q. Do you know the fish salmon trout?—A. Oh, yes. I know speckled trout and salmon trout and young salmon.

Q. Are they the same fish?—A. Oh, no; they are altogether different.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What would be the size of these small fish?—A. Oh, about the size of herring and smelts; they are all small fish; if we don't use bag-nets we cannot catch them.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Do you leave these young fish on the bank or not, or do you leave any fish on shore?—A. Well, sometimes half a bag or so. Last year at Esquimalt there was some left on shore; last year we were fined in Victoria for leaving small fish on shore; they thought it unhealthy.

Mr. WILMOT.—If my brother Commissioners will not think it intruding on my part, I will present to them the exact size of the mesh used (proceeding to show Messrs. Armstrong and Higgins by diagrams drawn on one of the departmental files). The half inch mesh will take all little fish of every kind, and the complaint is that large numbers of these little fish are cast on shore and decay.

Mr. HIGGINS (to witness).—Q. What were you fined for at Cowichan?—A. I was fishing for bottom fish. Mr. Lomas came down and told me I could not fish without a license in Cowichan, and I told him I sent to Mr. Mowat for licenses and sent the money, but I got none; so he seized my net and I was taken down before Mr. Edwards and was fined. It is pretty hard when a man sends the money to the Government to get a license, and then to be fined because he hasn't one.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What fish do you catch?—A. Herring, rock cod, tommy-cod, ling, flounders, soles—all kinds of small fish.

Q. What is the probable size of the flounders you catch?—A. From one to six and eight pounds.

Q. What is the size of a one pound fish?—A. Oh, about five or six inches long; it is very flat and a very light fish.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Do you fish with a seine now?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you do not catch many fish?—A. Nothing at all.

Q. It don't pay you?—A. No, sir. I am behind about \$22 or \$24 in the last two months.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Have you the sole here proper?—A. No; that is the name of it; but there are very few English soles; some average about a pound or a pound and a half.

Q. What is the size of smelt?—A. Well, between five and six inches long. Some may be a little longer.

Q. What size herrings?—A. From six to seven inches.

Q. The rock cod?—From two to five pounds.

Q. And your ling?—A. Between two to seven.

Q. Is ling cod the same as ling?—A. No; it is different. It is green.

Q. What is the size of ling?—A. About three or four pounds, I think.

Q. Now, there is not a single one of those fish that could not be caught as readily in three and one-half inch mesh as with a half inch mesh?—A. No, sir; you could not. Smelt and herring would go through.

Q. But these flounders, and herring, and rock cod, and ling, are all good sized fish?

Mr. HIGGINS.—But you would never get those in a seine; there should be some special regulation for this fishery.

Mr. WILMOT.—But it is evident that this half inch mesh kills many little fish.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Do you ever cast your net up Victoria Arm?—A. Yes.

Q. What do you catch there?—A. Oh, some herring; but they won't let us fish there now.

Q. They say herring have disappeared from the Arm?—A. Well, some gentlemen have some trout there, but generally the herring goes up there, and in winter time they go into the same inlet. They won't let us fish; we cannot get any herring. There is no halibut in the market.

Q. Where do you catch halibut?—A. Oh, outside in the straits. They are very scarce.

Q. Is there any particular bank where you catch them?—A. Yes; there is a bank near here, and another one not far away.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. You did not say, when you were giving descriptions of fish, whether you ever caught any others—any trout?—A. No, sir; I do not remember any—not in four or five years. I never caught any.

Q. Any young salmon?—A. Yes; in Saanich. Three of them—about two and a half pounds.

Q. Any smaller than that?—A. No; I never noticed any.

Q. Could you distinguish between a trout and a salmon that might be six or seven or eight inches long—could you tell the difference between them?—A. Yes; I think so.

Q. And you say you have never caught any trout or salmon about that size?—A. No, sir.

Mr. WILMOT.—I think if the matter was properly represented to the department about this fishery, it would no doubt be considered, but the matter has never been brought before them, except that they were killing young and immature fish of every kind, hence the department thought it proper to disallow it, since licenses have been issued for nets with mesh three and a half inches square—they would catch most all fish mentioned here except herring and smelt. Herring nets are specially allowed in some parts of the Dominion, when applied for.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Perhaps some of the other gentlemen here might have some suggestions on this matter. Has any one any suggestion that would assist the Commission?

Mr. EWEN.—I have; but I would like to ask the witness a question.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, no; let him suggest it properly. I will not agree to that. Persons getting up in any part of the room—I will not have it. Let him put questions through the Commissioners.

Mr. WARD.—Oh, privately. Then this is not a public inquiry at all.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Come, Mr. Ewen, let me know your question. I will not be insulted by being asked a plain question by an honest man. Come and sit by me and let me know what you want. (Mr. Ewen seated himself beside Mr. Higgins and communicated to him his wishes.)

Mr. HIGGINS (to witness).—Q. Could you catch these small fish, such as flounders and ling, herring, smelt, etc., except in bag or pouch nets?—A. No, sir.

Q. Not in any that size?—(Showing diagram of mesh.)—A. No, sir; ling goes through.

Q. Could you catch it in this?—(showing diagram 1 and $1\frac{1}{2}$)—A. Yes, I could; I consider the small fish have plenty of chance to go through before they come to the bag. Now, I was trying to catch some herrings by gilling, but I could not catch them; in one whole night perhaps I would get one bag.

Q. Well, it is pretty evident from what Mr. Wilmot says that the net will catch everything that swims?—A. Well, when you get to shore they have chances to get away. There is 50 fathoms of net, and in hauling it in there is plenty of chance for the small ones to get through the mesh and escape.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, I think the whole thing is in a nut shell. I don't see any object to use a seine for catching your bottom fish with mesh one and three-quarters inch square, because it will take every fish you have enumerated there, and with a gill-net you could catch larger ones?—A. Well, no, sir.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. But you have said that this mesh would do, and it would let small fish get away. Now I have noticed myself that the nets used in the Arm would catch small fish, but there they let the small fish go. Can you haul these pouch nets when hauling them on shore?—A. No; it is impossible.

Mr. WILMOT.—You will understand too, Mr. Commissioners, that very serious complaints have been made both here and at New Westminster about catching small salmon, and here is the same thing where the small fish of other species are caught and thrown on shore.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. If you catch a great number of fish can the small fish get through before you get them on shore?—A. Oh, yes, sir; the fish go through in all directions; on the sides and the back. Fish go to the back and stay there; but there is plenty of chance for the little ones to get away.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Is it a drag-net or seine—when hauling in the seine the fish—do they run from the seine towards the shore?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And then when near the shore they are all huddled together, and they cannot escape?—A. Yes, some; if they get in the bag of course they cannot escape; but the thing is all open, and in going to the bag they have plenty of chance to get out.

Q. It is just as well this matter should come up, as it has undergone a good deal of discussion, and it is beneficial to have this information.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Do you know of any other fishermen who would come here?—A. Yes; there are many fishermen, but I think they are all out prospecting for fish. There are no fish in the markets, and they are trying to catch them. Then there is another man who was fined for fishing in Cowichan; it cost him \$175; he was fined just like I was.

Q. Could you bring him here?—A. No; he has gone to Cowichan.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Did you have any knowledge of this Commission sitting to investigate these matters?—A. Yes; I heard of it, and I thought I would come and make complaint about it. We cannot fish, and have to keep our families, etc.; it is very hard.

Q. When did you hear of the Commission sitting?—A. I heard when it was in Westminster.

Q. Was it talked over by the fishermen?—A. Yes.

Q. And why don't they come?—A. Well, they thought I could speak better English, and they thought I should come and tell you about it.

Q. Then you are representing others; other fishermen?—A. Yes; I speak for all.

Q. How many other fishermen are there here?—A. About 10 or 12 men.

Q. What countrymen principally?—A. Some are Italians; some Austrians; some Greeks; all nationalities.

Q. Have you ever become a British subject by taking the necessary oath?—A. Yes, I have.

Q. Is that the same with other fishermen?—A. Yes; every one. We all have to become British subjects.

Q. And you have taken the necessary oath which makes you British subjects?—A. Yes, sir.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I wish you would step down to Vienna's market and ask him to come up at 2 o'clock this afternoon, and come back and let me know if he will come, for if not we will issue a subpoena for him.—A. Yes, sir.

HENRY BELL-IRVING, a native of Scotland and resident of Vancouver, in British Columbia since 1883, a merchant, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmet:

Q. Have you anything to submit, Mr. Irving, in regard to these matters relating to the salmon or other fisheries of British Columbia?—A. Yes; I am largely interested in the canning industry myself personally, and as Chairman of the local Committee of the Anglo-British Columbia Packing Company. I am agent for that company.

Q. Is that the English syndicate, sir?—A. Well, it is not correctly termed an English syndicate, because there is a large proportion of the capital that has been subscribed in this country. I believe it is named the English Syndicate, although there is another one earlier than ours. I may say the headquarters are in London. We own nine canneries on the Fraser River and two on the Skeena River; these canneries have each a capacity of about 20,000 cases. I have read over some of the evidence on my way here, but as I only arrived from England the day before yesterday, I am in ignorance of a good deal that has been done. I see, however, that one witness, a man who I believe has not a cent invested in the cannery business, ventures to give as his opinion that ten licenses were sufficient for each cannery; if he had any money in the canning business he would think otherwise. At the commencement of the season I should think each cannery requires from 50 to 60 licenses, I mean to say they can take the fish from 50 to 60 boats, a week later perhaps 40 would be enough; in the height of the run from 20 to 25 would be enough for a very few days just in the height of the run. The market has been crowded and the business has been worked up by the cannerymen and by the agents for the cannerymen, by their pushing their business in other countries and selling fish and increasing the market and inducing people to purchase, and they have a large amount of money invested in the business, and I think it entirely unfair that fishermen should now come in and say we want half of the licenses that are on the river; we want you cannerymen who have practically worked up the business to what it is and made a market; we want to deprive you of the means of fishing and the licenses to be handed over to us. I should think it would be sheer robbery to deprive the cannerymen of the licenses that have recently been given to the cannerymen. I think you might as well take timber limits and hand them over to the loggers as take licenses from the cannerymen. The welfare of fishermen is of considerable account to cannerymen, they wish to treat them well, but do not want to be entirely at the mercy of the fishermen. Cannerymen have to look forward very far ahead and make arrangements for their season's work. We have now ships on the way from England with large supplies; we have even bought supplies for 1893, which is a long way ahead, and now not knowing the number of

licenses that will be issued we are working on a very precarious basis, and I think the regulations should be put on a permanent basis so we could calculate with a fair amount of certainty on what materials would be wanted. As to weekly close time, I think the present regulation works very satisfactorily, that is from 6 a.m. on Saturday to 6 p.m. on Sunday, practically the Sunday is not violated; the residents are not disturbed by any noise or anything; it is only on Sunday evening the fishermen start out and fish all night. If fishing was continued on Saturday and Saturday night, we would have to work on Sunday, and therefore, I think the present close time cannot be improved upon. Then the annual close time, I think, might be left as it is. I think it a very good limit from 1st March to 25th August for 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch mesh.

Q. Do you think five and three-quarters inch mesh correct?—A. Yes; I think so—that is for sockeye. This limit I am speaking of up to 25th August. We fished to 31st August this year, and I may say at the very end of the month there was a big run of fish; the time was extended, and we had quite a lot of work, and after the 31st of August there were millions of sockeye running, but they were not in as good condition for canning as the earlier fish.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Should five and three-quarters inch mesh be the minimum mesh?—A. The same as now; that is, the same regulation be continued.

Q. But you may have them as much larger as you like?—A. As much larger—yes. I may say I have just come back from England and have seen some of the principal dealers of salmon there, and they prefer the sockeye salmon altogether. You cannot convince them that the spring salmon is a better fish. They must have red fish and red oil. I was very pleased to see that the demand in the English market is going rather now from the Columbia River fish to the Fraser River fish. I take it that is because canners have given more attention to careful packing in the last year or two, and only packing the first quality of fish. They all insist upon having good quality of fish packed. They said: "If you put up a good article you can always get a good market and ready sale, but we want no scraps. There are too many tail pieces put in, especially in the flat tins, but you must put in no flat pieces." There is, of course, a good deal of waste in canneries with small pieces and scraps that are unfit to pack, and if packed, they would have to be sold at a loss. Now, I think it is unfair to expect canners to put up these scraps, because they would have to be sold at a loss if we could get any market at all. Then we have to enter into keen competition with the Alaska packers. Their salmon has much the same appearance as ours, but we have the advantage of them that our salmon is much more carefully packed, and that we have to rely upon. Now, it may be the opinion of a few in this country—I have heard one or two speak in that way—that, as I believe, it is practised in the United States, that after British capital has been induced to come in the country and is invested, it becomes legitimate prey for any one, and he is considered a clever man who can deprive the investor of a portion of his profit. I think good faith should be kept with people who send their money here for investment, because in a new country like this it is of great importance we should get all outside capital we can. I notice there has been some evidence given in relation to licenses given to freezers. The early fishing in spring does not, in my opinion, effect the canners much—the spring salmon, as I said, is very little good to pack for the English market. It seems to me, if licenses were issued to freezers and shippers of fresh salmon to catch spring salmon only, that a good deal of that difficulty would be overcome. The contention has been, and I think rightly, too, that freezers, or people who pretend to be freezers, simply get a number of licenses and make money out of them, by selling fish to canners. Now, if they were only entitled to fish with large meshed nets, that would be done away with.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Because the canners would not buy the white?—A. But to a very small extent. They don't can salmon—the spring salmon. I think the canning of spring salmon, in

my opinion, is but a very small business, indeed; and, as I have said, in the English markets they do not want it. It is more expensive to pack spring salmon, and we cannot get

Q. What is your opinion of spring salmon yourself?—A. I think it is a much better fish in every way, but we have to go by the market.

Q. Could not we educate them up to it?—A. Well, I have tried it—we have shipped spring salmon to England last year but we will meet with loss—it will have to be sold at a loss and we have to be governed by the trade—now a good deal has been said about the disposal of the offal. I may say that this company with which I am connected commenced business last year—it was in the beginning of May, and at that time it was almost too late for us to think of putting up an oil refinery or place for disposing of this offal by manufacturing it into guano—it was almost too late, but I did all I could to induce a firm on the Columbia River to come over and take all the offal from our factories. I gave this firm all the opportunities I could, and offered a bonus if they would do it—there was much correspondence about it, and I thought at first we would be successful, but it fell through—the firm could not see there would be any money in it, and I think myself it would result in loss to any one who would go into it. It may be better in the future, when the soil becomes worked out, but of that I cannot say. Now, as to the disposal of the offal, I believe firmly if offal is shot out into deep water into a strong current, it cannot be either injurious to fish life or to the health of the people residing on shore. It is true, there are numerous cases of typhoid fever in the Delta, but I think the sickness there is attributable to other causes than fish offal—the unsanitary condition of the houses and other causes I think, will explain that—bad drainage, &c.—as a matter of fact one hears of almost no sickness at the canneries where the offal is disposed of, but chiefly at hotels where there has been crowds of workmen and others living together and where they are not over careful about the sanitary arrangements. As to the hatchery, the river is such a large river that I do not think the hatchery has had much appreciable effect as yet though there is no doubt last year was exceptionally good for an “off” year, but we know that the fish hatcheries have been very beneficial in smaller rivers where the results were more noticeable, and I think the hatchery should be encouraged in every way possible, either by increasing its capacity or by building other new hatcheries on the smaller tributaries. I think this is a matter that would be supported by every canner—it cannot by any chance do any harm and the chances are 100 to 1 it will do a great deal of good. As to the northern canneries on the Skeena River, I think it is important there should be no change made in the regulations there, especially this year, for as you are aware all arrangements for materials, &c., have been made long ago, on the basis that they would have a certain number of licenses. I may say we work there the British American cannery. We were granted 34 licenses and have been granted them for a number of years previously and also worked a number of outside boats and then had not as many boats as we wanted. I think on the Fraser River each cannery should have a certain fixed number of boats, not less than 25. When I say 25 I do not mean to say we cannot do with more than that, because in a poor year we can use 50 boats all the year through. My company do not intend this year to work all its canneries because we cannot get enough boats to supply all the canneries with fish—it is proposed to run half the canneries on the Fraser River and use the fish from those boats of canneries not running to put in the other canneries and double up, thus reducing expenses, but I think it most essential that there should be a fixed number of licenses to the canners, so they may reply on ordering supplies, &c., and so there should be no danger of being frozen out by any combination of fishermen, as canners have money invested and not the fishermen, and if it was not for the canners the fishermen would have a very small market indeed—the local market—and which is a mere nothing to them. That is all I have to say.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Mr. Irving, suppose all British subjects who apply for licenses should get them?—A. Canners and everybody else?

Q. All persons, British subjects who apply. Would canners require as many licenses as if the number of licenses were limited, except a certain number granted to each

cannery? What would you think of that?—A. Well, I am afraid it would lead to some over-crowding on the river, but it is a matter that would right itself. I do not think any more than the present number of boats could fish on the river, and if more were allowed, I think there would be trouble on the river, because each fisherman would have to wait his turn to fish a drift.

Q. Do you think much of the Alaska pack reaches England?—A. Oh, yes; a large quantity and the Alaska pack governs the English market more than anything else. A large amount of the Columbia River pack is consumed in the United States on account of the duty on tin plates, and it is really the Alaska pack that governs the English market. It has more effect than the Fraser River pack a good deal.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. You speak of the large amount of capital invested in the fisheries. Can you tell the total amount invested on the Fraser River approximately?—A. Of course it depends a good deal upon the pack.

Q. Oh, well, I mean the amount invested in appliances, etc., stock in hand, etc., take an ordinary year. I mean the plant, not the out-put?—A. Well, do you count the good-will, because that is a very large item. I suppose Mr. Ewen would consider his good-will a great deal more than the value of his cannery.

Q. Well, I don't think we can count the good-will. I mean the machinery, the buildings, the ground, etc., all necessary to carry on the business; the amount of money put into it, you know?—A. Well, I should think the value of the canneries, including the good-will—

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Oh, do not include the good-will; that does not amount to anything. Give us the canneries; good-will has nothing to do with trade.—A. Nothing to do with trade? Why if we pay so much for a piece of property, a good deal of that is for the good-will. Why the man may have gained a reputation for the brand and that is worth a good deal.

MR. ARMSTRONG.—But another man's brand may not be worth anything.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. To a certain extent I think Mr. Armstrong is right. Mr. Irving,—I intend to divide my question in three parts: First, the amount of capital invested in the canneries, the land, the buildings, nets, boats, etc.?—A. Well, if I pay \$40,000 for a cannery and that cannery is burned down flat, I could probably build it again for \$25,000, but I would consider that there was \$40,000 invested.

MR. WILMOT.—No; I do not think so, because to a certain extent that is speculative.—A. Well, you asked how much money was put into the business; well, we pay so much, but if the places were burned down we could replace them for very considerably less than what we paid for them.

MR. ARMSTRONG.—Well, but we cannot take into calculation every good-will. I know a case in New Westminster where so much was put in for good-will, but the good-will was not worth a cent.

MR. WILMOT.—Take the value of real property—what would good-will be worth? A man may own a horse and want \$100 for him, and another come along and say, "That horse will be worth \$500 to me," but that would not be the market value of the horse.—A. Oh, I see.

MR. HIGGINS.—But you are off the track. I want to get at how much money is invested in the canneries. Say Mr. Irving has paid \$40,000 for a cannery; now, that is \$40,000 capital, no matter what it cost the first man who sold it.

MR. WILMOT.—Yes; but the capital that is invested in that way may be brought about in this way—now a man owns a cannery say, and strangers come here and they make him believe the cannery is worth so much—perhaps four times its real value.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. But I do not want to know how much it is worth ; I want to know how much capital is invested in the conduct of the fisheries on the Fraser River.—A. The whole of the canneries on the Fraser River ?

Q. Yes.—A. I should say one million dollars for value of the canneries is a fair sum—independent of anything else.

Q. That includes everything in the way of appliances ?—A. Yes ; boats and nets, land and everything else.

Q. Would that be a low or a high estimate ?—A. I should think it a fair estimate.

Q. How many canneries are there ?—A. Twenty-three, I think now.

Q. Are all running ?—A. They were all running last year, yes—no, I am wrong ; twenty-two there were.

Q. Now, sir, the amount of capital required to keep those canneries in operation—how much to keep them going ?—A. I see. Well, we will take a big year, say, for of course the capital involved in a poor year like what we expect to come now is very different to what we expect in a good year. I should say a million and a half of dollars is the amount required when the pack would be about 440,000 cases.

Q. Then there is about \$2,500,000 invested on the Fraser River ?—A. I should think about that.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Now, Mr. Irving, if the value of canneries is a million of dollars, now what will it cost to put up one of those canneries ?—A. Well, it will depend upon the taste of the builder a good deal.

Q. Well, as they now stand ?—A. Well, for \$25,000 I believe you can put up a good cannery—that is, without boats or nets or any material.

Q. Well, but do you think any that are up now cost \$25,000, except Mr. Ewen's ?—A. Well, I should think they would, judging by the amount of insurance that is carried on those canneries. That would be a fair criterion to go by.

Q. Well, is insurance carried on the building or plant ?—A. On both building and plant. I would say for the average cannery on the Fraser River, of course, \$25,000 would be about the amount.

Q. But, as they were put up first ?—A. Oh, well, perhaps \$15,000 to \$20,000—that though is a very very low estimate—that is the bare cannery and nothing else.

Q. Then what would the machinery cost ?—A. Oh, I include the plant.

Q. Boats and all ?—A. No, not boats or nets.

Q. And what would it cost to supply those boats and nets ?—A. Well, about \$5,000 for nets.

Q. And I suppose that has to be renewed every year ?—A. Every year.

Q. And the boats about \$40 apiece ?—A. Some would cost more than that—some cost nearer \$50 and \$60—of course \$40 is the bare boat alone and many bare boats cost \$50 and \$60.

Q. I suppose \$50 would be the average ?—A. More.

Q. Well, would \$60 cover them ?—A. Yes.

Q. I think about \$20,000 would come near the average of all the canneries would it not ?—A. Well, may be you are right, but that is not a high sum at all.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. And do you think \$20,000 a fair value for the building ?—A. Yes.

Q. Then how do you make out the value of the canneries to be a million ?—A. Well, some of that land there is very valuable, and my answer was not only for the bare building but the business.

Q. But your reply was it would cost one million—now, this divided between the canneries makes each \$45,000 and you say \$20,000 for each—now that is double that.—A. Well, the question was put “how much money is invested in the business.”

Q. Well, we will let that drop—do you think the \$45,000 is too much ?—A. Not some—I know there are men would not sell their canneries for that.

Q. Well, how could you state that figure then?—A. Well, the \$20,000 are the mere value of putting up the building—the bare building—nothing else.

Q. Could not one be put up for \$5,000 or \$10,000?—A. Well, I suppose if you like you can fish in a bare shed.

Q. Is it not so that some of the canneries are being about to be pulled down?

MR. HIGGINS.—Well, Mr. Chairman, pardon me—I think you are travelling the very way I spoke of the other day—I asked the question what was the amount capital invested, not the plant—now Mr. Irving.

MR. WILMOT.—But you asked about the plant?

MR. HIGGINS.—But, Mr. Wilmot, excuse me—I asked the gentleman what was the money invested in the business—I will appeal to every reporter at this table. Mr. Irving were not you asked this question “what was the amount of money invested in the business?”

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Mr. Irving, did you not mean when you said the value of the canneries was a million of dollars not including the good-will?—A. No, I included the good-will, because that good-will has been paid for in hard cash in most instances.

Q. But did not Mr. Armstrong and myself say “not including the good-will?”—

A. I included the good-will—why many of the canneries would not take—(inaudible).

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. I don't exactly catch your answer, namely that some of the canneries would not take—what do you say?—A. I said that many of the canneries would not take that price—I meant that at the average you said—\$45,000. I put it in round figures at a million dollars for twenty-two canneries.

Q. Then are we to understand that the difference between the actual cost of the canneries and the million dollars is good-will, because the actual cost is not half a million?—A. Yes; good-will, value of brand, etc. It is an established business, and when a man has established himself in business and been working at it for a number of years, it stands to reason he cannot jump over and run away at a moment's notice, and he will not sell it for a song.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Then you say \$20,000 is the value and \$25,000 the good-will?—A. Well, but excuse me, I have put nothing for the land. The sites of many of these canneries are very valuable.

Q. But, do you not when you build a cannery buy the site, too?—A. Certainly; but much of that land along the river front is very valuable.

MR. WILMOT.—Very well, we will let that drop; it seems we cannot get any decided answers; in fact I would rather not ask any more questions. The witness is in your hands, Mr. Higgins.

MR. HIGGINS.—Well, I am sure he has answered very satisfactorily to me. I have nothing further, however, to put.

MR. ARMSTRONG.—Yes; we are much obliged to you, sir. That will do.

WILLIAM McNEILL, a native of British Columbia, born and reared in Victoria, and a Fishery Officer for the Victoria District, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Have you anything to represent to the Commission?—A. Well, in respect to nuisances I have, both in Victoria Harbour and Esquimalt Harbour. There are eight fishermen engaged in fishing herrings and other fish all the year round.

Q. In Victoria or Esquimalt, or both?—A. Well, we closed Victoria Harbour and ordered them to keep out, but in Esquimalt we have not done anything yet, but I believe they are just as great a nuisance there as in Victoria. They are engaged in fishing for

herrings and they haul their nets ashore and allow the young fish to lay there and rot, and it becomes a nuisance to people all along the water front, and it also diminishes the food fish. They have been in the habit of seining their nets stationary right across the George, right here in Victoria, fastening them on the banks at both sides.

Q. Then it becomes a stationary net?—A. Yes; running from one side to the other and they have caught and killed every trout that comes up there and they are exterminated entirely in the Gorge.

Q. Are there other fish besides trout?—A. No; principally trout, and in nets in the lower part the herring is caught and thrown up on the beach and allowed to rot.

Q. Do you know the description of net used?—A. They call them herring nets, but they have very small meshes.

Q. Were you present when Martin, the last fisherman, was giving evidence? He says they fish with $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch mesh, and those don't catch anything worth mentioning?—A. Yes; and some are still smaller. I think if they were licensed and some restriction put upon them, we would be able to manage them a little better.

Q. Have they licenses to fish these nets?—A. They have no licenses.

Q. Should you not prevent it then as an officer?—A. There is no law to prevent it; I have asked for instructions, but have not got them. I am of course a new officer; I only went into the office in January, 1892.

Q. Did you know of this beforehand?—A. Oh, yes; I knew of it beforehand.

Q. Mr. Martin says he could not get a license; do you know Mr. Martin?—A. Oh, yes; I know Martin—well, Thomas Martin?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Leonard Martin he gave in.—A. Well, he gives me his name as Thomas.

By Mr. Wilmot;

Q. He may be Thomas Leonard; and you think it injurious here allowing these small nets?—A. Well, in summer time the Gorge is a great pleasure resort for anglers with hook and line, and it is now destroyed by these fishermen.

Q. And the fish brought in would comprise what?—A. Trout and rock cod; there used to be whiting caught also; but they have destroyed the grounds by this fishing. I have not seen if any made their appearance again, but I am afraid they will be destroyed. That was the place for real whiting too.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I know it well; I have often visited there.

Q. What do they do with these fish left on the beach?—A. Well, they leave them there to rot. I could bring in two or three good witnesses to substantiate what I state.

Q. I think you should do so, sir, and then there would be no onus upon you as an officer in giving information. I think it would be well to bring the witnesses. Do you know young salmon when you see them?—A. Yes.

Q. Is the name trout and salmon confounded in referring to the young?—A. Well, I believe it is.

Q. Therefore some of these fish that you say are trout taken in these nets may be young salmon?—A. They may be, some of them; but we have the trout for years in the Gorge, as everybody knows, when now there is none.

Q. Brought about by the action of these nets?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you think it would be advantageous to the inhabitants of these places that a regulation should be adopted to prevent this improper and improvident fishing?—A. Well, as far as advantages I do not know, but some regulation should be adopted; it would be more convenient. I have been asked to make these representations by a good many people of Victoria.

Mr. WILMOT.—These representations have been made to the department before, sir, and steps have been taken to a certain extent in not allowing seining to be done at all, and they should be caught in some other way.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Oh, yes, these small nets are simply murderous: they catch all the small fish. Do you know a young salmon?—A. Well, from the general appearance I can tell young salmon from salmon trout.

Q. What are the characteristics of salmon trout—speckled around the tail?—A. Well, some of them are, more rays, etc., and though I was discussing with people last night, and would not like to say anything about it, but still I can tell them. I made a seizure not long ago, and they were said to be salmon trout, but I consider them young salmon.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Then the salmon trout are not easily discerned, and some young salmon may be here and sold as salmon trout?—A. Yes. I may say I was passing here a few days ago and saw many of them called salmon trout, but they were young salmon.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Will salmon trout take the fly here?—A. I believe they do.

Q. Will salmon?—A. I don't know ; I never heard of it.

Q. Will these young salmon, called salmon trout, take the fly?—A. Well, I don't know.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. For of course the young salmon will often take the fly ; in their young stages they take the bait and fly most greedily, but when they become adult they do not. They are getting their growth then, you know, and are hungry. How about the close season here, Mr. McNeill, the Sunday close season?—A. Yes, I am aware of that ; but it is not observed here. The fishermen here that fish are under no law whatever.

Q. Who was the previous officer before you?—A. We have never before had a fishery officer here before.

Q. Who would then be the nearest officer?—A. John McNabb, at New Westminster.

Q. Where is Mr. Lomas?—A. Oh, yes ; he would be the nearest ; he is at Cowichan.

Q. And none of the officers have prosecuted for breaking the Sabbath here?—A. None.

Q. And have any other fishery officers made complaints here of the same nature as you have done?—A. Never ; they have gone on seining there up to 1st January of this year ; they have had their own way here ; they could have taken canvas and set it together and scraped the harbour ; nobody could have said anything to them.

Q. And do the inhabitants now complain of this scarcity?—A. Yes ; they have.

Q. Would not regulations, if passed to prevent it, be found fault with?—A. No ; not from resident people here, but from fishermen they might.

Q. Well, in the event of licenses being given to fishermen here, should it be open to all or resident fishermen?—A. Open to all.

Q. Greeks, Italians, etc.?—A. Well, it is mainly Greeks and Italians who do the fishing here. I have tried to find out if there are any others, but there are only eight fishermen, and they are principally Italians and Greeks, and so if licenses are given, I do not think there would be any trouble.

Q. Yes—that is, it seems that you are to be burdened by these people. Even in their own country they take in everything ; use small mesh and give no thought to the fish until utterly destroyed, and so, I think, they should not be allowed to do as they like. Very well, sir, if you have nothing further, that will do.

The Chairman declared the Commission adjourned at 12.30 p.m., to meet again at the same place at 2 p.m.

Before adjourning the Commissioners agreed not to sit later in the afternoon session than 5 p.m.

the small fish.
can tell young

VICTORIA, B.C., 5th March, 1892.

Afternoon Session.

The Commission was convened at 2 p.m.

Present: Mr. S. Wilmot, in the Chair; Commissioners Armstrong and Higgins, and Mr. Secretary Winter.

MR. ASHDOWNE GREEN, who had been recalled, appeared, and was asked by the Chairman if he had been sworn when giving his evidence yesterday.

MR. GREEN.—Oh, yes; I was sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. And it was said that you were not sworn in the usual way, and that it was intentional?—A. Nothing of the sort, sir; I was duly sworn.

Q. And do you find that the Chairman had put words in your mouth to say?—A. No; but I will say that it struck me that sometimes you gave me a history of the Canadian salmon, and you took up those points that resembled the British Columbia salmon, and, of course, I could say nothing, except that it was so.

Q. But was it not correct?—A. Oh, yes; but you did not take up those we think do not agree.

Q. Well, I will take them up now.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. I understand you know something about the Skeena River, Mr. Green?—A. Yes; I was up there last year. I went from the mouth to one of its principal sources.

Q. Does it fork at Hazelton?—A. I was also up the larger fork.

Q. Were salmon running when you were up river?—A. Yes; there were five species running. I did not follow them up. I left one kind running up at the Forks and got into another kind when I arrived at the lakes. I was at the Forks when the humpbacks was running, but they had not arrived at Babine when I got there, and I was curious to know if they were running so high from the sea.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, may I interrupt the witness—it may be said again that he was not sworn. Will you please take the book?—A. Yes, sir.

Mr. Green was thereupon duly sworn.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. What is the distance of Babine Lake from the coast?—A. I can hardly tell you; about 160 to 180 miles. It is a very large lake, and it is full of salmon, according to the Indians; well, the salmon go there; that is all that go by that fork. I did not see the humpback, though the Indians tell me they go there.

Q. Do they go beyond that?—A. No; that is the limit of the lake; it is a source, you may say.

Q. Are there any small tributaries?—A. Oh, numbers. I did not visit any tributaries of the Babine. I was principally employed at the mouth of Babine, and I was thinking there must be immense quantities of salmon taken there; the Indians have traps in all directions.

Q. You say you saw five species; can you enumerate them?—A. Certainly. There is spring salmon, the sockeye, the coho, the humpback; the coho and humpback I am not certain about, but I think the coho goes in. The dog-salmon and steel-head I also observed, particularly because about here it is an early fish, and enters in January and December, but there it does not enter until August generally.

Q. How many canneries are on the Skeena?—A. I did not count them; I think six or eight.

MR. ARMSTRONG.—I think in the evidence it is given at eight.

1892.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Is there any complaint of scarcity of salmon there?—A. No evidence at all of it.

Q. Were you there at the spawning season?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. When was that?—A. The end of September.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Was there any evidence of fish having died?—A. Yes ; a good number.

Q. And were they still running when you left?—A. Yes, they were still running. I did not see any spring salmon ; their habits are so different ; they are not likely to die ; the ones I saw were particularly sockeyes and cohoes.

Q. With regard to the difference in salmon in the east and these, what do you think?—A. The only one bearing any resemblance is the spring salmon : that is the only one.

Q. And yet the salmon in England it resembles is a red salmon?—A. The only difference, as I said yesterday, is that I do not think the smolts are the same, and nothing is ever found in other salmon.

Q. Have you ever tried the fly here?—A. Yes ; but always for the cohoes ; not for spring salmon. I never caught an adult salmon with the fly ; but then I have never fished when it is in the river. I have caught adult salmon with phantom minnow ; but I never tried the fly but a few times, and then caught grilse. The cohoes I have taken several times, and always at the head of tidal waters. I have been told they have been taken above tidal water. The cohoes are a perfect nuisance ; they take your fly ; I once took five. The fish I took were clean and bright, though not well developed. The adult ones would not take the fly.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. I shall not be wrong now, sir, if I say the character of salmon you are just describing are very similar to other salmon?—A. The spring salmon are ; not the other salmon.

Q. You say you have caught grilse?—A. Yes ; from five to seven pounds, I have caught them.

Q. Have you ever seen any but male salmon that were grilse?—A. These were male and female I caught.

Q. Would you catch any female grilse of four pounds weight?—A. I cannot remember. I think I caught one of seven pounds weight.

Q. Would not that be same as salmon on Atlantic coast?—A. Yes ; very like.

Q. And is not the male one year in advance of the female in pro-creative work?—A. Yes ; I know the male salmon is. I never saw any grilse of dog-salmon or cohoes. The spring salmon run according to their age, up to seventy or eighty pounds.

Q. The smolts only descend the river ; they do not ascend?—A. No ; I never knew of one to do so.

Q. And at what period do grilse first come in the river after coming down as smolts?—A. That I cannot say. I have taken grilse in April ; that is the earliest.

Q. Do you know the accepted idea that prevails in Great Britain that grilse go up very soon after being a smolt?—A. Yes ; I know that in some cases it is very short. Some smolts may go down in the fall and up in the spring as grilse.

Q. Then are not the character of grilse and spring salmon in Cowichan River, very like the English salmon?—A. Yes ; they are very much alike.

Q. They come in the months of April, May, and June in eastern provinces, and then spawn and go back again?—A. Yes. Here they come in December and January.

Q. Yes ; that is on account of their being so much winter?—A. Yes ; probably.

Q. And you think spring salmon will take the fly at the proper time—when would that be?—A. In January, February, and March, I should say.

Q. When they come in first, they will take the fly readily?—A. Oh, no ; not in Skeena. They will in Cowichan. The water in the Skeena is too muddy. There are some half dozen rivers in British Columbia where you can catch them with the fly.

Q. Then another river like the Cowichan, running into the sea, would give angling sport, if practiced?—A. Yes. The Nanimo River is another. It is a practice there to go fishing for cohoes. It has been for nine or ten years—I mean with the fly.

Q. I think, sir, as far as my knowledge goes, your statements are identical with what you made yesterday?—A. Yes; I don't see any difference.

Q. Illustrating more strongly, perhaps, that the spring salmon is quite like the other salmon in the eastern provinces?—A. Yes; except the coho salmon. It resembles grilse very much, but afterwards get more of a larger species.

Q. Do you think coho a separate species of the salmon family with spring salmon?—A. No; many things are alike, but his flesh is drier and his bones and vertebrae are different—his fins, etc.

Q. Would it not be because he is slighter and smaller?—A. They vary much in different rivers.

Q. Then spring salmon is red when it comes in, but afterwards gets white in flesh, and enters in April, May, and June?—A. Earlier in the Cowichan River; in January.

Q. And the coho?—A. In June, but the coho is much whiter than the others.

Q. Yes, but they change like the spring salmon?—A. Yes, they do.

Q. The reason of asking these questions, Mr. Green, is simply to find out information—you know in England much wealth is made out of the rivers leased for angling and in eastern Canada the same way, but here—have you any rivers where this can be done, because if so, you have another source of wealth which it would be advantageous to foster?—A. Yes, but I hope you will not tax me for having found it out.

GEORGE VIENNA, a native of Greece, residing in British Columbia since 1858, a fisherman for 28 years, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Where do you fish when you are at home—up the arm?—A. No, outside—not in the arm at all.

Q. What do you fish with—small seines?—A. Nets of one and one-half inch mesh.

Q. What do you catch?—A. Herrings, flounders, smelt, big salmon.

Q. Do you catch a great many?—A. Sometimes.

Q. How long ago is it since you gave up going out to fish?—A. Twenty-three years and I have been keeping store since.

Q. Do you find fish getting scarce?—A. Sometimes, but if they get scarce we change places.

Q. Are there plenty of fish now?—A. Well, if they are caught every day the fish get scarce.

Q. You think there is too much fishing?—A. Well, there are too many people fishing.

Q. Do you get any fish from Puget Sound?—A. Oh, sometimes—the oulachon principally.

Q. Small flounders?—A. No, only oulachons.

Q. Do you buy any fish that are caught up the arm or in Esquimalt Harbour?—A. No, we get them from Saanich and Cowichan sometimes.

Q. I wish you would show him the sizes of the mesh, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Wilnot proceeded to show the witness the diagram on file showing the different relative sizes of meshes.

By Mr. Wilnot:

Q. Well, which of those sizes do you use?—A. I think we use all kinds of mesh here.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Do you ever use smaller than a half inch?—A. Yes, for shrimps.

Q. What size do you use in your nets mostly?—A. We use herring nets mostly—we use all kinds except the half-inch—sometimes we use it, but only for shrimps.

Q. What do you get in one and a quarter?—A. Oh, small kinds.

Q. Herring and smelt?—A. No, not at all.

Q. What kind of mesh have you in bag of the seine?—A. Oh, about one and a quarter in back side.

Q. Point out which it will be?—A. Well, sir; I cannot tell from that (the diagram)—if you show me the nets I will tell you.

Q. Did you ever get fish from the arm years ago?—A. Yes, I used to fish myself up the arm—up as far as the second bridge.

Q. Have you ever been in Esquimalt Harbour?—A. Oh, yes; we used to draw nets through the harbour—but now we cannot fish—there are too many lines.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. How do you know the fishing is reduced, from the fish you used to catch to what you catch now?—A. Well, we used to have 25 boats, but now we have only a few.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Do fishermen catch any young salmon in the nets now?—A. Yes; of course if they find them they catch them.

Mr. BEAUMONT BOGGS, a native of Nova Scotia, 7 years in British Columbia, a broker, and resident of Victoria, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. What have you to submit to us, sir?—A. I reside on the shore of Victoria Arm. I take pleasure in trout fishing and since my residence in Victoria have fished in Victoria Arm. Some three years ago, in April, 1887, I complained to Capt. Lewis, the Dominion officer, of the fact that nets were spread across the mouth of the Arm above Point Evert's Bridge; these nets prevented the trout, in my opinion, from reaching the upper portion of the Arm which is the fishing ground. Upon one occasion on my coming down in the morning in a canoe, I saw some Italian fishermen drawing their nets, and I examined the fish that were in their nets, and among the number were quite a number of trout, I should say about half a pound, also flat fish, smelt, herrings, etc. The practice of netting still goes on during the night on Victoria Arm. Only two months ago I dispersed two pair of fishermen below my house engaged in spreading their nets. I was informed there was no officer here who could look after them, as the fish inspector was at Westminster.

Q. How long ago was that?—A. Three or four months ago, I think.

Q. Before you had any local officer here?—A. Yes. I believe it would add a great attraction to our Arm if trout were put in there from the hatcheries and protected for a certain time and netting prohibited altogether.

Q. Is this Arm saline water?—A. No; not altogether. Two small streams run in.

Q. The sources of these streams are pure?—A. Yes.

Q. Gravelly bottom?—A. Yes; in some portions.

Q. Are you acquainted with streams in Nova Scotia?—A. Yes.

Q. Do these resemble them?—A. No; I think not. The water is, I think, salty. I think the bottom in our eastern rivers has more vegetable matter; that is not muddy, but more leaves, etc.

Q. Small aquatic plants growing in them?—A. Well, here there are some of them, too.

Q. Would it be better if this stream was deprived of aquatic plants?—A. Well, I don't know.

Q. Do you think these streams are adapted for the breeding of trout and that netting is diminishing them?—A. Yes.

Q. Are you acquainted with the different appearances of young salmon and the small trout?—A. No; I cannot say I am. I could not say one was young salmon or trout.

Q. Then some may have been young salmon instead of trout?—A. They may be.

Q. And you think this netting should be prohibited?—A. Yes. I think it is not exactly the number of fish that are taken as the number of fish that are killed. I have seen myself near my house great numbers of young fish floating belly up dead.

Q. Do you know what caused their death?—A. No; it was during the days when these fishermen were netting.

Q. It has been said that these fishermen draw their nets ashore and leave them there to die?—A. Well, I believe that is done.

Q. If you throw fish on shore is it likely to come alive?—A. No.

Q. And the number of fish thrown ashore become refuse and offal?—A. Yes.

Q. As an angler have you fished outside of this Arm?—A. I have fished on Sim's River running into Alberni Canal, and on Cowichan River.

Q. What fish did you catch on Cowichan River?—A. I cannot say I caught very much; my luck was not very good.

Q. You got "water-hauls"?—A. I am afraid they were "water-hauls." I have seen good salmon caught there with the rod and fly.

Q. In what season would that be?—A. I think in April or May. It is some years ago.

Q. Then you are aware that salmon are caught in British Columbia with the fly?—A. Yes.

Q. (Jocularly) And then that Englishman who said it was a bad country because they could not be caught with a fly made a mistake?—A. Yes; the Simas (Esmos or similar name) running into Alberni Canal is really a fine angling river.

Q. And then from an angling stand-point do you think trout should be protected in these rivers; some say they should be killed off, because they are destructive to salmon fry?—A. Well, that is from a commercial stand-point. I think a large number of persons, wealthy persons, visit this province for the object of sport, and if it was known all the fish and game of this province were exterminated they would seek some other point.

Q. And if protected and encouraged it would add to the wealth and prosperity of the country?—A. I think so.

Q. Are you aware that there are fishery laws for the preservation of trout in other countries?—A. Yes; there is here, too, but there has been no one to see it was carried out.

Mr. WILMOT.—Have the other commissioners anything further to ask?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—No; nothing further.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well; thank you, sir.

ALEXANDER BEGG, a native of Scotland, four years in British Columbia, and forty or fifty years in other parts of Canada, at present a resident of Victoria, and engaged in looking after colonization projects, in particular that of the Scotch Crofters.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Are you, Mr. Begg, identified with the Crofter immigration?—A. I believe I am.

Q. Well, have you anything to state to this Commission on the subjects under consideration?—A. I have not had much experience myself in connection with salmon fishing, because during the salmon fishing time I have been across in the old country looking after the project engaged in. I only know there are a great many kinds of salmon put up, and know there must be a great deal of offal come from those salmon, and I have examined the offal that came from the fish, as it was understood that a change was to be made in that regard. I also looked into the manufacture of dog-fish oil on the west coast, where that has been carried on for many years. I visited the oil refinery or factory on Alberni Canal, and saw how the oil was manufactured there from dog-fish, and also visited the Skiddegate oil factory on Queen Charlotte Island, and also

on the Queen Charlotte Islands visited the seal oil factory on Comishaw Inlet. These are the principal oil factories we have, but they are principally for dog-fish oil, and the refuse matter or solid matter belonging to that oil is thrown away entirely; it is not utilized. As soon as the oil is extracted by steam it is floated up in cold water; the oil is very effectively extracted in that way, but leaves the residue in a sort of gruel, and so far it has been found impossible to solidify that product, and so it is thrown away; they open a valve into the sea and let it away, so that is quite lost as far as we are concerned. While I was examining that matter, I wanted to find out the different constituent matters in fish that might be utilized for making oil and fish guano, if that could be done, so I procured samples of the different kinds of fish. One was dog-fish, and I put it into a can or vessel; I also got part of a cod-fish, such as would remain after cleaning cod-fish for market; I put that into another can marked; I also got some salmon, and put heads and tails and entrails in the parcel; I also got some herring, and had four samples, and brought them to Ottawa to have them analyzed, to see if we could work them to advantage. The dog-fish, of course, we knew about here. When I brought them to Ottawa I found, rather to my disappointment, the great Experimental Farm there would not look at them; they didn't think they had time to look at them, and they asked me to take them away. Well, as I did not want to lose my time altogether, I thought I would try the small provincial affair, and I went to the Agricultural Department at Toronto, and called upon the Minister of Agriculture, and he said very kindly that he would enquire from his Professor of Chemistry, and he sent them on, so shortly afterwards, I got a report from Professor James, the chemist. It seems to be very fully gone into, and gives everything very fully. (Hands in document.)

Q. Is this the same as appeared in the *Colonist* the other day? (See pp. 112 and 113).—A. Yes; the same thing, only it is more fully shown in that paper. I thought it a very good report, but have not been able to do anything further since. Still, it is very evident from that report that Professor James is a very able man, and gave it a good deal of attention, and I have no doubt his views are pretty nearly correct; at the same time, I do not think we have the machinery to separate the solid matter from the fluid.

Q. Have you formed any opinion of your own aside from this report?—A. I believe it can be done, but the machinery to do this will take very expensive machinery, and it may be that another way of extracting the oil from what is done here may be used. At present we float the oil out by the introduction of water, but there may be some other way that will be better and more easily worked, but it is found at present that the oil from dog-fish, when cool, gets into a kind of jelly, and so far, it has not been worked profitably, and I have no doubt those who work it on the Fraser River have found it to be correct.

Q. Have you ever made estimates of what would be required to put up an establishment for this purpose?—A. No; I have not got an estimate, but I think it would be more expensive than estimated—though they do manufacture this oil from fish offal in Norway, where they have been for many years in that business, and I suppose we could get from them some information as to how it is managed.

Q. Do you know if it has been sufficiently satisfactory to be remunerative?—A. Oh, yes; they have been carrying it on for years, and unless remunerative, they would not do it. It was also tried at Aberdeen, and they made all sorts of essences, etc., etc., but they had to give it up, because they could not get the supplies. Now, the same thing would apply to the Fraser River, because, except during the fishing time, there would be no supply to carry on the work—the fishing only commences in June and July, and as soon as the fishing is over, of course, the offal is done. Now, it is different on the west coast, where we have dog-fish, and other fish, etc., and we would expect in this scheme of colonization that the fishing would be going on all the year, and it would be quite different to the Fraser River.

Q. What about the fishing that is carried on after the sockeye run? Could not these fish be utilized?—A. Oh, yes; that was my intention in connection with this colonization scheme—all kinds would be utilized. If oil fish, they would be used for oil; and if food fishes, they would be used for that purpose. There would be no waste, whereas in salmon fishing, it is only the choicest parts that are put up in cans, and, of course, that makes it more difficult.

Q. Have you ever seen reports as to the Aberdeen establishment?—A. I have seen reports, but I cannot say as to them. The great difficulty of that Aberdeen establishment was that they could not get supplied to keep going; then the machinery was expensive, etc., but it is not so up north. Up in Queen Charlotte Islands oil factories are still going on there, and they use all kinds of fish to make fertilizer, that they cannot use for anything else. I think it can be carried on, and in connection with this colonization scheme, with which I am connected, we have a separate company which will look after the fish altogether—take them off the fishermen's hands, and see to the marketing of them, and they will most likely after that part of it, see about the oil, etc.

Q. What inducements are you holding out to immigrants coming here?—A. They will have plenty of fishing and work to do, and will be paid for their work, and that is all a good industrious man requires. We also have made arrangements for advancing money to bring them out and establish themselves.

Q. Have you spoke of the salmon fisheries?—A. No, we have been careful to avoid any interference with existing interests—the object of this scheme is to establish new industries and we do not wish to interfere at all with the salmon industry.

Q. What special manufactures do you anticipate?—A. Well, one of the special ones was this oil refining, and then anything that comes in the way will be used, if not for food for something else. Then another point will be to preserve table fish by cold storage.

Q. Then you did hold out inducements that this was a large fishing country?—A. I told them there was plenty of fish and that they would have work in catching them—and then the markets would have to be found, and that is the object of this company that has been formed—to find these markets.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Do you know with expensive machinery you speak of that it can be carried on successfully—that is the oil business?—A. I think so—the oil—that pays.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Do you say the oil pays?—A. Certainly it does—it pays the man at Serrat (1) and it pays at Clough on Alberni Canal, only that they cannot get supplies—the trouble is the Indians will not work steady—they go picking (1) and other things, where as our fishermen could stay at the business and have work all the year round.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Do you think the oil made from offal from canneries would pay?—A. I do not know if oil from salmon would pay alone, but I have no doubt that with proper machinery it would pay from salmon offal, but on account of the short season it would not pay on account of not being able to get supplies.

Q. Well, from what they speak of humpback fish—I think you should get plenty of oil from them?—A. Well, I don't know if they are fat enough or if there is any oil in them.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Well, while you were away getting this analysis made, did you enquire where you were likely to have a market for this manure?—A. Yes, I did—and I believe there are parties who would be willing to take large quantities if they could get it at prices paid for ordinary manure.

Q. Was that in England?—A. In the United States too, and even in Canada we find the lands are running out a good deal and require manure. I think that was the object Professor James had, because he thought it would be useful for the Dominion. It is a manure of very fine texture and would be easily absorbed by the plant.

Q. With a view to encourage Crofter immigration and provide for people coming here as a result of that scheme you would naturally look into the cost of delivery, etc. of this oil and manure and could you figure out a profit after deducting cost of transport, etc.?—A. It is said the value in Ontario is \$34 a ton, and that is a price on the basis of what it will bring.

Q. But what would it cost to get it there?—A. Well, that is the price after all that I fancy.

Q. Is not \$30 a ton the most paid for manure like that?—A. Yes, about that.

Q. And would you have to send it across on the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Yes, I suppose so.

Q. And the freight would be about \$45 a ton—more than it would sell for?—A. Well, I don't know—I think if the canneries thought of going into it, the canneries would no doubt be willing to assist in getting the offal and delivering it in scows at place of manufacture.

Q. What did you find the freight would be on the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. Oh, well; I did not go that far—I made a certain allowance for freight, and so much for labour, etc.

Q. But I think it would be necessary before counting in these things to find out what it would cost to produce and what it would cost to get to market?—A. Well, that would have to be added to the cost of production.

Mr. HIGGINS.—But you would only get about \$30 a ton in Ontario for it.

Mr. WILMOT.—But is it a fact that it costs \$45 a ton to take freight down?

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Not every thing; steel rails are the lowest; \$18 a ton, and then you would have to run a second train of *eau-de-cologne* to take the smell out of the country. (Laughter)—A. Oh, it would be deodorized before it was shipped. I have been at three factories—at Skiddegate, at Clough and Burrard Inlet, and there is not so much stench from them. I don't know what the one is like on the Fraser River.

Q. Do you know there were such factories in California, but they never paid, and that every fertilizer establishment on the Fraser River has always failed?—A. Well, I don't know. I know these establishments at Skiddegate and other places I have mentioned have made money.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. How many Crofters do you expect to bring out?—A. Well, we at first thought 1,500 families, but that would not do on account of the cost to bring them here, and we have got the sanction of the Government to reduce the number to 1,000 and that would give £150 to each family. We do not intend to interfere with any residents, Chinamen or others.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Have you ever sent communications to the Department of Fisheries at Ottawa in regard to the manufacture of this offal?—A. Yes; I believe I did so.

Q. Did they do any thing?—A. No; they were very careful not to go into it themselves. I think as far as the residue is concerned, when the oil is taken out and properly steamed, it does not seem to be so very offensive; the great trouble about the odour is that fish are allowed to stay too long before being steamed. I think after the steaming process commences it takes away the offensiveness.

Q. The offensiveness is then created in the cannery?—A. I don't know, but if fish are allowed to stay even a short time, it soon commences to foment and putrify; that is the reason I want to get them taken away in the same day.

Q. Do you know of any market for this oil in British Columbia?—A. Well, they sell the dog-fish oil very freely here for many purposes. The salmon oil, I should think, would be a very digestible oil; the Indians eat the salmon oil; the other from dog-fish cannot be eaten. The salmon oil could be used for leather making. It is not so very offensive and can be deodorized. When I was in London, I found there was a place where all the dead horses were collected and they were used up in all manner of ways. The flesh is used for cat-meat and the bones are taken in a retort, and they make oil out of it, and after it is clarified and refined, you could not tell it from olive oil, and I think the salmon oil would be very fine.

Q. Did you ever offer to put any capital into the business, Mr. Begg?—A. Yes; I did so once.

Q. Did you ever apply for a bonus from the Dominion Government?—A. Well, I thought it was necessary for us to have a bonus; it was also proposed that cannerymen should help in working it.

Q. What did the Dominion Government reply to your request?—A. Oh, they didn't do anything. They are not likely to do much on anything of that kind.

Q. And you never enquired what freight would be on the Canadian Pacific Railway?—A. No, I did not. I do think there would be a fair field in the south for the manure for tobacco raising, etc. I think \$10 a ton was the price to be given and with my figures, I think there would be no reason for it not succeeding if the cannerymen would help in the matter.

Q. Have you ever eaten Limburger or blown butter?—A. I do not know, perhaps I have.

Q. Do you think this fish oil could be used for other purposes?—A. Well, I do not know, perhaps it could; it could be rectified; I remember in that place where the oil from bones of horses was made that it came out as clear as could be.

Q. Did you taste it?—A. No; I did not.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. You know coal oil is very offensive in its crude state?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you know that by deodorizing and cleansing it can be made into the finest articles on the market?—A. I do, sir.

Q. And you think, if properly treated, a good article could be made from those fish?—A. Yes, I do; I think the oil can be clarified; and especially the oulachon would make an excellent oil.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. I do not suppose, Mr. Begg, if you were in the cannery business you would feel that you were treated rightly if the Government or any other power compelled you to convert that offal into oil or something else, at a loss?—A. Well, I don't know; I don't suppose the Government will insist upon them producing oil and guano from them. I understand all they insist upon is that it shall not be thrown into the rivers; I am not aware that they insist upon it being converted into oil or guano.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. As you have been asked if you were a canner, now, if you were a farmer, what would you do?—A. I would certainly complain about them.

Mr. WILMOT.—That will off-set the other.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Well, I will give you another; if, as is supposed, Mr. Begg, you lived along a slough which was almost stagnant and where all the refuse from kitchens and closets were thrown in, would you drink that water and expect to enjoy good health, even with the addition of a little whiskey?—A. No, I would not, even with a little whiskey in it, but I understand the Fraser River is a large stream and has a rapid current and all stuff like that would be carried off.

Q. No, sir; I am talking of a sluggish slough almost stagnant, and I am asking you a question, if, after drinking that water, would you wonder at people getting typhoid fever?—A. No, I would not.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. But if before the canneries were put there and no offal was thrown in?—A. I should think the offal would help it.

Mr. HIGGINS.—But suppose before these canneries were there, there were no inhabitants to suffer from it and even then the water was stagnant and undrinkable.

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh, well, never mind; with the offal it has got worse; before it was not so bad I suppose; let us get on with business.

Mr. BEGG.—I have nothing further to submit to the Commission.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I wish Mr. Ladner to be called.

Mr. WILMOT.—I would draw the attention of the Commission to the fact that Mr. Ladner has been up two or three times. (To the Commissioners)—What do you say, gentlemen?

Mr. WARD (from audience).—I would say, Mr. Chairman, that you stated last night that if any gentleman had anything further to say you would hear him. I thought of matters after giving mine that I would like to give at further length.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, if we hear you, Mr. Ward, why we will have to allow every one to come again, and we are not going to stay here day after day to hear the same story repeated over and over.

Mr. WARD.—It is very apparent then, Mr. Chairman, that it is not intended to make this enquiry exhaustive. We certainly expected that the Commission, when here, would be willing to get all information of value. Now, I know myself I have thought of matters since giving my evidence the other day which I would like to state to the Commissioners, but if you don't want to hear it, why all right; but—I think—

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Mr. Chairman, I am opposed to this. Mr. Ladner has been heard before, and I think we should not go on allowing every one to come up as often as they want to, and go over the same story.

Mr. WARD.—You don't want a full enquiry, it is obvious; you don't want to hear all matters.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, you were here on the stand. Why could you not put matters in then? We allowed you to put in papers and anything you like.

Mr. WARD.—Yet I do think after a witness has been examined, I think if more evidence occurs to him, and it may be very important, I think it should be taken again. Now what are we to infer? We come here day after day, and we hear other men giving their evidence, and questions which may not have been put to us lead us to a line of thought on certain points, etc.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, there is no use making a speech about it. I must call you, sir, to order. The rule was established that we would not hear witnesses repeatedly. Mr. Ladner has already been up two or three times. If Mr. Ladner is allowed to come here, Mr. Ward will come again.

Mr. WARD.—I don't want to, sir. I would not come. I can well understand the Chairman would not want to hear me again.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, perhaps I would not be in the mind to let you do so.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Pardon me, Mr. Chairman, I have a word to say. That rule was broken this afternoon. I think I should have a word to say. Mr. Green was called this afternoon. I offer Mr. Ladner as an important witness on important matter. If important evidence can be obtained from a witness what does it matter if he is called half a dozen times. I certainly say that we should hear Mr. Ladner.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, but Mr. Higgins, you know we cannot go on hearing everybody that comes along. The fishermen in Westminster didn't ask for this.

Mr. WILMOT.—I think we should keep to the rule. Mr. Ladner has already been heard two or three times, and if we hear him again we will only have to go over the whole thing with most of the other witnesses here.

Well, I put it to the Board; what do you say, gentlemen, shall Mr. Ladner be re-heard?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I say no.

Mr. WILMOT.—I say no.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I say yes.

Mr. HIGGINS.—That will do. Mr. Ladner, the Commission refuses to hear you.

Mr. WARD.—Gentlemen, let me say that you re-called Mr. Even half a dozen times and Mr. Port two or three times in New Westminster, and I consider this is disgraceful; your actions in conducting this inquiry are shameful.

Mr. WILMOT.—Order, sir; I call you to order.

Mr. WARD (contemptuously).—Oh, yes; I will keep order.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Let me tell you, Mr. Ward, you are not running this Commission.

Mr. WARD (excitedly).—No; I don't want to. I shall not bother you. I tell you publicly, you are acting disgracefully. However, we are done with you for good; for I know, I for one, shall not attend your meetings again.

(Mr. Ward, accompanied, by some others, here left the room. Remarks were inaudible, owing to more or less noise, and several persons speaking at the same time.)

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I move that this Commission adjourn altogether.

Mr. WILMOT. Shall we adjourn—meeting again on Monday morning—if these gentlemen have any new evidence to give?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—No witnesses over again. If you have any new witnesses, we will hear them, but not the same persons over again.

Mr. J. H. TODD.—But, gentlemen, is it really your intention to forbid any person supplementing his evidence in any way, if this Commission continues sitting?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, but Mr. Todd, how long will this go on? You never saw such a thing allowed in any court in the country.

Mr. TODD.—Well, I have been present in a good many courts where counsel has re-called the same witness to give fresh evidence on the same case.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, just give me an instance.

Mr. TODD.—I cannot cite an instance off-hand, but I will bet you \$100 that it is often done.

Mr. WILMOT.—This is not a betting community, sir. Well, gentlemen, shall we adjourn until Monday morning or not? What do you say?

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes; till Monday morning.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, but are there any new witnesses? I was prepared to finish up here to-day, and adjourn from here to Nanaimo, or elsewhere.

Mr. WILMOT.—Then I suggest that we adjourn till Monday morning, if we have new evidence.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, Mr. Chairman, I have new evidence from Mr. Ladner, but if he cannot come, I will call another witness. I will telegraph for him, if necessary, and have him down.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, that is all right.

Mr. HIGGINS.—It is not all right. It is all wrong. You are both acting in a harsh, arbitrary manner, and I am very sorry that I accepted a seat at this board, after the way I have seen matters conducted here. You are both acting altogether wrong.

The Chairman declared the Commission adjourned at 3.45 p.m., until 10 a.m., on Monday, 7th March, 1892, at the same place.

BOARD OF TRADE ROOMS,
VICTORIA, B.C., 7th March, 1892.

Morning Session.

The Commission was convened and called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Present: Mr. S. Wilmot, in the Chair; Commissioners Higgins and Armstrong, and Mr. Secretary Winter.

Mr. WILMOT. —Before any business is transacted, I wish, gentlemen, to read to you the following statement:—

“Mr. Wilmot begs to submit for the consideration of his associate Commissioners of this Royal Fishery Commission, appointed to investigate matters in relation to the salmon and other fisheries of British Columbia, the following, viz.:

“That this Commission having been formed by the Dominion Government for the purposes above mentioned, but more particularly as regards the salmon fisheries on the Fraser River, where almost the whole of the complaints have originated which brought about the appointment of the Commission, and as the sittings of the Commission have been openly held there in the court house and town hall during ten days, in which some fifty or sixty witnesses, comprising canners, fishermen, and others, were heard in relation to the above mentioned complaints: and as the Commission adjourned to the city of Victoria to obtain further information, and has had four days sittings in the room occupied by the Board of Trade, and has taken evidence from canners, their agents and brokers, fishermen and others, and as no further new evidence is forthcoming, it is expedient in

the interests of the British Columbia Fishing Industry that this Commission should now adjourn to meet at Nanaimo on Wednesday next, unless found necessary to extend the time; and that this Commission then adjourn to the city of Vancouver (or Nanaimo) most suitable to Mr. Higgins in his official capacity as Speaker, for Friday and Saturday, from thence an adjournment to New Westminster to wind up the business of the Commission with the view to making an early report to the Government, so that the Department of Fisheries may be enabled to alter or amend the present regulations to conserve the general interests of the cannerymen, fishermen, and others of the public, for the protection of the fishing industry of the province of British Columbia. It is understood that whichever place of adjournment (to Nanaimo or Vancouver), shall be made upon the days mentioned as most convenient to Mr. Higgins, and that telegraphic despatches be sent at once giving notice of the meetings."

Mr. WILMOT (continuing).—I put that forth as explanatory of our programme of business. I submit this for your consideration.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Let it lie over Mr. Wilmot for a few minutes. I would ask that the Secretary read over his notes of Saturday's evidence in regard to the discussion upon the question of re-hearing Mr. Ladner.

The SECRETARY.—I would say, sir, in explanation before reading from my notes that much of the discussion in reference to Mr. Ladner was very animated and from the fact of the tendency for several persons to speak at once and the more or less confusion resulting therefrom, as well as the fact that much was not evidence direct; some person's remarks may be found wanting in my report.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I wish it read as you have it in your notes; that part referring to Mr. Ladner.

The Secretary thereupon read over the portion of Saturday's evidence referring to the question of hearing Mr. Ladner.

Mr. WILMOT.—Are the Minutes correct?

Mr. HIGGINS.—I have no fault to find with them. (Continuing). I labour under a disadvantage, as you are aware, to hear this evidence of this Commission. I wrote the department to say that I could not leave Victoria until 15th April, to sit on this Commission, and was obliged to let several of the sittings go by default; of course, it will be considered that the majority of the Commission were present, but I was obliged to let many of them lapse. I may say I have not heard Mr. Ladner's evidence yet, and he is here under his own expense in the city and he has new evidence to give. Now, I put it to you, gentlemen, that I want to hear this evidence. I cannot give a verdict upon the report without the evidence from Mr. Ladner. I have thought over it and I think the Commission should yield this point to me, and so I can form an opinion.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I may state for your information that I have instructed the Stenographer to get up as many pages as can be given you to-day and I think Mr. Ladner's and others will be included in them.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes, but I want to hear Mr. Ladner's new evidence, and I know in courts of law it is often the case.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—But Mr. Ladner has been called three times.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, but still even if called three or four times what matter—he has new evidence and I wish to hear it.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I quite agree with you, Mr. Higgins, but I don't see how we can come to a satisfactory conclusion before we arrive at any conclusion.

Mr. HIGGINS.—But, I do not see how we can come to any conclusion without the evidence?

Mr. WILMOT.—No, of course we cannot arrive at a conclusion without it.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, but here is Mr. Ladner's evidence—that we would not have. I will pledge my word to Mr. Wilmot and you (to Mr. Armstrong) that I will not ask Mr. Ladner any but new questions.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Now Mr. Higgins, you do not know where this will end—if we allow Mr. Ladner to come we will have to allow many others. Now, it is not the rule in a court—I have known cases where counsel has had privilege of re-calling witnesses, but he must state his question, and it is optional whether the judge will allow it or not.

Mr. HIGGINS.—But this is a public enquiry—there is no third party. But I will say, call Mr. Ladner, and no other man will be called.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, I object to it. These people knew perfectly well this Commission was going to be held—they have known it in Victoria for two weeks, and they have not attended to their business if they don't know.

Mr. HIGGINS.—But, Mr. Ladner is a river man.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, he has been here three or four times.

Mr. WILMOT.—I find, Mr. Higgins, your statement is perfectly correct and that you wrote the department on the 21st January that you could not leave Victoria to sit on the Commission until 15th April, owing to your duties in the Legislative Assembly. The Minister was away from home at the time and I telegraphed him, and I want to show that there is no attempt to do anything out of reason in connection with the fisheries of this province—I state this so the province will not take a wrong view of the actual case. Now, I find from this file of papers, containing the whole record of the case, that on 26th January, this message was sent to Lt.-Col. Prior and T. Earle, M.P.'s.

"Would be greatly obliged if you would let me know if new Commissioners are ready to act at once, if they are, Mr. Wilmot will go to British Columbia without delay—if not, it will be necessary to cancel commission as far as this season is concerned.

(Signed) CHARLES H. TUPPER.

And in reply to this, the following answer was received :—

"Victoria, 27th January—New Commissioners ready to act—cannot you send one from department who is unbiassed—Wilmot's opinion already formed.

(Sd.) THOS. EARLE, E. G. PRIOR.

To this the Minister replied from Halifax, 29th January :—

"Answer Earle and Prior in my name, and say Mr. Wilmot is in my opinion the most competent officer in the department, and on no condition would I name another for the purpose.

(Sd.) CHARLES H. TUPPER.

Mr. WILMOT (continuing).—I wish to be particular and precise, because there seems to be very strong feelings here, and I wish if there is any doubt in the matter, it should rest in the right place and not in the wrong one. Then, after receipt of Mr. Higgins's letter, stating he could not sit until after the 15th April, unless the meetings were held in Victoria, I telegraphed the Minister as follows :—

"2nd February.—Higgins writes required as Speaker in Victoria till 15th April. If Commissioners sit there can attend meetings. Information sent you to avoid possible complications. Shall I proceed at once?" Oh, previous to this, I find on the 30th January, messages were sent to both Mr. Armstrong at New Westminster and Mr. Higgins at Victoria :—

"Will leave here to meet the Commission early next week.

(Sd.) "S. WILMOT."

Then on the 2nd February, in reply to my message of the same day, the Minister wired me as follows :—

"Proceed British Columbia and hasten proceedings of Commission.

"CHARLES H. TUPPER."

On the journey over from Ottawa, of course, I telegraphed to Mr. Armstrong, at Westminster, being the first place at which the cars would stop :—

"Have you made any arrangements for meeting at Westminster or Victoria?"

And the answer was : "Call at Westminster," and I did so. I then tried to make arrangements where we could organize, and I ran back and forward two or three times between Westminster and Victoria to get the Commissioners together, and at last succeeded, and Mr. Higgins came to Westminster on Thursday morning, 19th February, and we proceeded to work Friday and Saturday, from 10 a.m., to 10 p.m. Mr. Higgins

But I will
y well this
weeks, and

was anxious to get along as much as possible and so were we. Mr. Higgins had then to come to Victoria to attend to Parliamentary business; there was no objection to proceeding with the business.

Mr. HIGGINS.—None whatever.

Mr. WILMOT.—We then proceeded with the business all the following week and then came over here. We have been here four days, and at times it has been difficult to get witnesses together. Then Mr. Ladner was asked to give further evidence. We made a rule at the beginning to not hear a witness a second time, and I think the matter has been carried on very fairly all the way through; but an impression seems to have prevailed among many of the cannerymen that the chairman has been too self-interested in putting questions to witnesses—

Mr. RITHET.—No, sir; no, no.

Mr. WILMOT.—Pardon me, sir; I am addressing the Board.

Mr. RITHET.—Yes; but we are going to deny anything not correct that we hear.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I submit this paper embodying my views as to the further carrying on of the business (referring to statement handed in and read at opening of day's proceedings). Now, in this case of Mr. Ladner's, unless exceptionally new matter

PPER.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, we are very much obliged to you, Mr. Chairman, for your very true history of the carrying on of the business; but you have avoided the real matter at issue. Mr. Ladner's evidence is very important, and I do not think you are treating me right in not hearing this evidence. Why should I be deprived of hearing this witness? I cannot make up my mind as quick as you gentlemen.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Thank you, sir, thank you.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I really cannot see why you cannot allow me to hear him.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, I have no doubt that if this evidence is heard in Westminster, there would be a great many people there, too, who would wish to come forward, and then I do not think it would throw any particular light upon this matter.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I must say, if I had sufficient spirit, which every one knows I have not, I would retire from this Board at once. You will not hear my witness. Then the Commission is sitting at the wrong time of the year altogether. I have been unable to hear much of the evidence, being obliged by my other duties to be absent.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, excuse me. We cannot go on hearing the same persons over and over again, and if we allow one, we will have to allow many. Besides, Mr. Ladner has been heard several times already.

Mr. WILMOT.—One matter I must correct, and that is this: on behalf of the Government who were instrumental in forming this Commission, at the request of all the members of Parliament of British Columbia, you should not make remarks that it is the wrong time for the Commission to sit. This thing has been urged for some three or four years, and I think this is the third set of Commissioners who have been appointed but who would not act, and then after appointment, the Minister wired Messrs. Earle and Prior, M.P.'s for Victoria: "Would be greatly obliged if you would let me know if new Commissioners ready to act." Now, what was the reply to that? Messrs. Earle and Prior stated: "Fishery Commissioners ready to act." Thereupon, the Minister telegraphed Mr. Wilmot to proceed at once. Now, if they were not ready, or anything was in the way of the Commission going on to business, why could they not telegraph and tell us. And I think that everything has been done that could have been done in the matter.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I have no complaint to make, and although I think the Government has done everything they could, but here I am not allowed to hear my witness.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, we are here as public persons, Mr. Higgins, and not as private persons.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, I think if Mr. Ladner wanted to give evidence, he could have given it in New Westminster.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, will you hear him in New Westminster?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—We will consider it if he comes up there.

Mr. WILMOT.—If Mr. Ladner asks to be heard at Westminster, and if a majority of the Board says he will be heard, he will be received.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Oh, fie, Mr. Wilmot, I enter my protest against these proceedings. I will have it out at Ottawa, if I have to go there and pay my own expenses. An unjust proceeding, that I am not to be on the same footing as you other gentlemen.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—It was your own fault, sir; why could you not have attended the sessions?

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, you know very well my other duties have prevented me.

Mr. WILMOT.—I think none of you gentlemen have any complaint to make of me. I have always been on hand.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, have you any witnesses?

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I call Mr. Ladner. If you object to it, I want it to go on the Minutes. Is Mr. Ladner's evidence objected to?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Objected to.

Mr. WILMOT.—Objected to.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Very well, Mr. Ladner, it is declined to hear you.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, now about this matter which I have laid before you, I thought it should be before all the Board. Now, in regard to our adjournment to Nanaimo or Vancouver, as far as I am concerned, it will be made to suit the convenience of Mr. Higgins, either on Friday or Saturday. We have heard that evidence will be forthcoming at those places.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I am willing to leave it to Mr. Higgins's convenience.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I think I can be at Nanaimo on Saturday.

Mr. WILMOT.—But my proposition was that we adjourn to-day to commence at Nanaimo on Wednesday; therefore, if we adjourn to-day to meet either at Nanaimo or Vancouver at your convenience, we will send telegraphic despatches to these places that the Commission will commence at a certain time at these points.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, but I cannot be there.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, but cannot you say if you will be at Nanaimo or Vancouver on Friday or Saturday?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—But if Mr. Wilmot is to have sittings at both places this week, I think Nanaimo is the most important place and I would prefer we all met there.

Mr. HIGGINS.—On Saturday?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes, on Saturday. I think there is more fishing round Nanaimo than Vancouver.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, gentlemen, I am at your disposal. If you think it is necessary to wait until Friday or Saturday, all right. I would also like to suggest to my brother Commissioners that it will be important for the Commission to get down the Fraser River and see these localities we have heard of; I think we should do so.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes, I think we should go there.

Mr. HIGGINS (jocularly).—Well, in consideration of Mr. Armstrong's toe, I think we should go where he says.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—But is it not possible, Mr. Higgins, you could make it convenient to come and go down the river with us.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I could go on Sunday.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I object to that decidedly; we cannot go on public business on Sunday.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Oh, then we will take a chaplain. (Laughter.)

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, gentlemen, now where will we say. Which will you prefer, Nanaimo or Vancouver?

Mr. HIGGINS.—I cannot be there on Wednesday; well, I raise no question; set your own time and place; I can be at one place on either Friday or Saturday.

Mr. WILMOT.—I think it will be most important for the Commission to sit at Nanaimo or Vancouver. There are important sea fisheries there, but if you do not think it advisable to go there, why say so. I am perfectly well aware that cannerymen and others are looking forward anxiously to the report from the Commission, and I think we should expedite business.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I think I will go to Vancouver.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, then we shall record that the Commission will adjourn to-day to meet at Nanaimo on Wednesday and then adjourn to Vancouver at 1 p.m., on Friday.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I think Mr. Higgins should come to Nanaimo.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I prefer to go to Vancouver.

Mr. WILMOT.—And that telegraphic despatches be sent to the papers at Nanaimo and Vancouver giving notice to that effect.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—It would be important to insert in the notice where we should meet at those places.

Mr. WILMOT.—Can any gentleman give us any information about these places where we could meet?

Mr. HIGGINS.—Could you not say Saturday at Vancouver?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I make this proposition—that we meet at Vancouver at 1 p.m. on Friday and take such evidence as will offer, but that the evidence will be read over to Mr. Higgins the following day.

Mr. RITHET.—I wish to be called to give evidence on a point on which I did not give evidence the other day.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—We have not settled this point yet.

Mr. RITHET.—Oh, I thought you had.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I think we should meet Saturday at 10 a.m., at Vancouver, and Nanaimo at 10 a.m., Wednesday.

Mr. RITHET.—I repeat my question to be heard upon a point upon which I was not questioned when I gave evidence.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—It is the same question.

Mr. RITHET.—Oh, no; it is quite a different matter—I would not ask the Commission to be put on the stand on the same question, but it is upon a matter which was not put to me which was put to others—it is but one point.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Oh, no; if we hear you we will have to hear others.

Mr. WILMOT.—Yes, if the rule is once broken there can be no deviations from it, and as Mr. Armstrong has stated the other day, if any one has anything to say let him put it in writing—but it has been decided that no one can be heard twice.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I think if Mr. Rithet has evidence he should be heard.

Mr. WILMOT.—If Mr. Rithet has anything to give us let him put it in writing.

Mr. RITHET.—But I want to give this under oath as other evidence has been given.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Oh, well; you can put it in writing and then make an affidavit under oath before a magistrate. (Continuing—perusing evidence given at Westminster). Now here it has been stated that no one was called the second time, and here is the evidence that at Westminster, Mr. Port was called a second time and heard.

Mr. WILMOT.—Exactly, but the majority of the Board consented to it—in the present case the majority of the Board do not consent to it.

Mr. RITHET.—Well, but if you are not going to hear me, can you be surprised that we have such opinions of this Commission?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, Mr. Rithet, when any man comes forward to give evidence we ask him his name, etc., and then he is asked if he has any matters to state to us.

Mr. RITHET.—Yes, I remember that, but this point has arisen to me subsequent to my giving my evidence—I was not cross-questioned on this point, and I heard it given by other parties, and it was not given as intended to be given.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, but how can you give a statement under oath to contradict another man's evidence?

Mr. HIGGINS.—What? Why Port has done this in Westminster.

Mr. RITHET.—I am going to give my statement from figures. My application is noted both by the press and the stenographer for the commission—I have done my duty—I will have further to say about it later.

Mr. WILMOT.—We regret very much sir, to say that we must adhere to the majority wishes of the Commission.

Mr. RITHET.—My application is declined—am I to understand it to that effect?

Mr. WILMOT.—Your application is declined.

Mr. RITHET.—(sarcastically). Thank you, sir.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I wish it inserted in the minutes that I vote for everybody being heard.

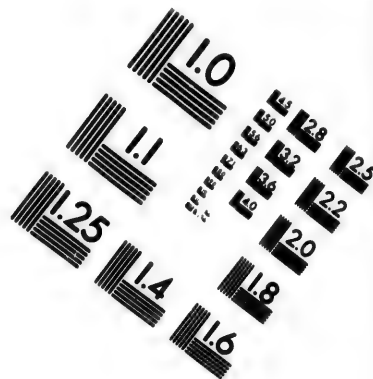
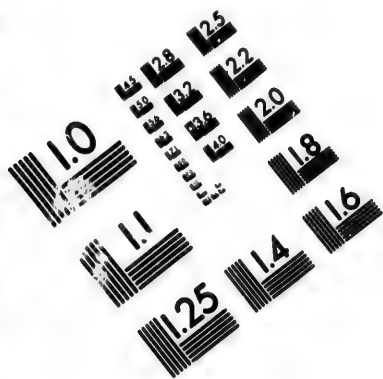
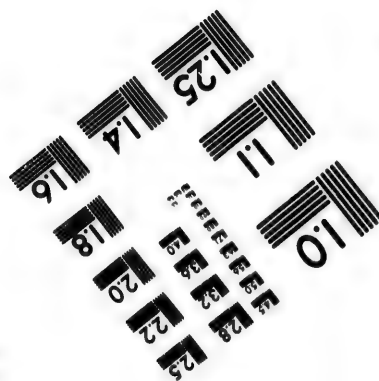
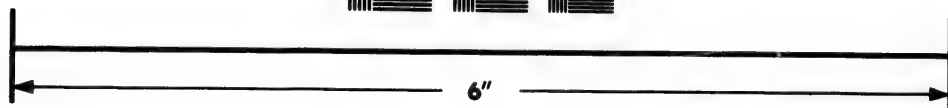
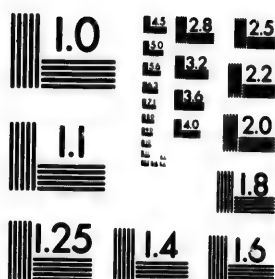


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Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I fear if we allowed these persons to be heard they would incriminate each other.

Mr. WILMOT.—If the question arose among some ignorant fishermen or persons not conversant with the rules of public order, but here are gentlemen versed in matters connected with the conduct of public business, and if we heard all persons repeatedly, why it would take all summer.

Mr. RITHET.—But I am in order, sir. I come to speak on facts.

Mr. WILMOT.—And it is equally advisable for the authority to say they shall not be heard.

Mr. HIGGINS.—How would it do for us to adjourn and take legal advice upon the matter?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, but we could call in all the legal men in the city, and would you have them discussing these matters?

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes; have everybody who could give us information.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, that perhaps would be all right. I know they would not agree. (Laughter.)

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, is there any further evidence?

Mr. J. H. TODD.—I wish to be permitted to put in this paper as evidence, the 5th annual report of the State Board of Fish Commissioners to the Governor of Oregon, published by authority, 1891. (See pp. 10 and 11.)

MATTHEW JOHNSTON, a native of Scotland, 28 years in British Columbia, a resident of Victoria, and manager of the British Columbia Canning Company, was duly sworn.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, sir?—A. I would like to say something on the question of the impression as to profits made by cannerys. I have seen it told that the profits are something enormous; but having been connected with cannerys since 1876, I am in a position to say that is a wrong impression. It is a very fluctuating business; some years fair profits are made, and other years no profits are made, and in the years 1884 and 1885, the losses were so heavy, and the business in such a bad state that many cannerys suspended—some went to the wall altogether, and never resumed operations. We have now to compete with Alaska, where fish is packed cheaper than we can pack, and it is only by keeping up our reputation that we can make any profits at all. Last year, I venture to say, the cannerys will not make any profit, or if any, extremely small, and this year the prospects are not much better. I saw it stated that \$5,000 would equip a cannery or build a cannery. That is utterly wrong. I think if it was stated \$25,000, as about an average, it would be nearer the mark. Then, besides the actual capital invested in the cannerys, the plant and buildings, etc., one must be provided with working capital, which is a very large sum, and I think that statement about \$5,000 altogether wrong. That is all I have to say on the subject of the impression which I see abroad.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, you see the statement in that case was a mistake; you see another man was altogether wrong.—A. Well, it was not a mistake; that is another way of putting it.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Anything further, sir?—A. Not on that subject. I have something further to say on the subject of licenses. Last year, as I understand, the regulations that the department intended to enforce was fair enough: that is, that each cannery should have a certain number of boats. That in principle seems right enough, but a number of buildings, not cannerys, obtained licenses also, and those licenses were really used for other cannerys altogether. I thought that was an injustice to us at the time, and protested to the department.

Q. You protested at the time?—A. I protested to the Fisheries Inspector at New Westminster, and I believe the department did not intend that those licenses should be issued.

Q. You say you think the department did not intend these licenses to be issued for these new canneries?—A. No; I do not think it did.

Q. Could you give your reasons, Mr. Johnston?—A. Well, I had a telegram from Mr. Earle on the subject, which I can get if necessary.

Q. Oh, no; your word is sufficient.—A. It is a telegram in which he stated that only those canneries in operation should have licenses, but they were not observed. I think if the principle was observed of giving each cannery in actual operation a certain number of licenses—twenty-five we hope to get—and only give those licenses to cannery actually engaged in business, I think the canners would be satisfied. As to fishermen, I think that if suggestions already made that those licenses should be given only to actual fishermen, and one for each boat, made not transferable, but the license fee to be equal, that we would find that system would work without injury to any one.

Q. Then I understand, Mr. Johnston, that you complain that additional licenses were granted for a number that you were supposed to obtain, to other parties, merely for the purpose of getting licenses?—A. I do not say for mere purpose of getting licenses, but they were not running. At the time I made this complaint, they were not in operation.

Q. The object was then to get the double number?—A. They were put up anyway.

Q. I remember, Mr. Johnston, hearing that licenses had been given to persons who had simply put up a cannery for the view of getting a double set of licenses—that was one of the views in Ottawa, but I don't know.—A. I was going to say that another year they adopted the principle of issuing licenses according to the capacity of canneries, but I think we were able to convince the department that was a wrong principle, and, as far as we were concerned, they gave way and increased our licenses. Of course, if capacity was to be taken, we were ready to increase our capacity to any on the river, and we claim rights on the river because we were established as soon, if not before any other cannery. I may say I represent five canneries in the province.

Q. Could you give the names if convenient?—A. I represent canneries both on the Fraser River and northern rivers. Of course, I am not an expert, and I do not think I need submit my views on the offal question, except that I know our canneries do not hurt any one by depositing it in the river.

Q. The reason I asked the names—A. Oh, the names. On the Fraser River, "Deeside;" on Rivers Inlet, one is known as "Rivers Inlet Cannery" and "Victoria Cannery," and we have a fishery there as well known as the "Standard" (?) or "Windsor" (?) fishery; on the Skeena, we have the "Aberdeen," and on the Naas River, we have a cannery known as the "Naas River."

Q. What is the name on the Skeena?—A. The Windsor Cannery.

Q. The new cannery?—A. No; it has been in operation; it is situated farthest up.

Q. How many licenses do you get for that cannery?—A. Twenty-two, I think. We had an equal number with others.

Q. I think other parties stated about forty?

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Is Mr. Dempster manager up there? I think we have his figures?—A. Yes he is manager of that cannery.

By Mr. Wilnot:

Q. Are seines used in any of these rivers?—A. No; only gill-nets.

Q. Seining is not carried on?—No.

Q. Your statement is that you hope to get twenty-five licenses. Do you consider that is sufficient to run your establishment?—A. No; we would require to get outside boats beyond that.

Q. Do I understand you that you would throw open to the river the building of as many canneries as people might desire, or do you wish to exclude others from building there beyond what is now built?—A. Well, if it lay with me, I would exclude more canneries.

Q. Well, sir, that is an important matter which has come before the department and this Commission. It has been represented that if new ones were built it would

effect trade generally and commerce. Well, now, if twenty-five would be all you ask for, and there were forty canneries built instead of twenty-two, how would that affect you?—A. I imagine it wou'd be a case of the "survival of the fittest."

Q. Well, you can readily understand it has been a difficult matter for the authorities to decide. Persons contend that they should be allowed to build as many as they like.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Do you think all canneries on the Fraser River should have the same number of licenses?—A. I think so; that is, we should not have less than any other cannery.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. And how about the others?—A. Well, we want to be on the same footing as others.

Q. You want twenty-five boats, and licenses should be given to fishermen who are British subjects?—A. Yes.

Q. And if all these licenses were issued, it would make a great number, and if fishermen got all, would it not affect the river?—A. I think there should be a certain number.

Q. What number would you say?—A. I think if the regulation was maintained as to distance where nets are put in the river, you could limit the boats that could fish on the river.

Q. Could you limit the boats to certain distances when fish are coming in?—A. Well, there are regulations to that effect.

Q. Yes; but when a large run of fish is coming in, you could understand it would be very hard to keep the boats so far apart, and thus it is necessary to make a certain number—500 or 600. Would that be sufficient to protect the river?—A. Well, as I have stated before, I think the licenses—so many given to each cannery, and fees made equal, and other restrictions, will prevent there being too many boats, and would be sufficient to protect the fishing interests of the river.

Q. You are not desirous of going into the offal question?—A. No.

Q. But I might ask what are your views on the effect of throwing in this offal on fish or the human family?—A. Well, as regards the human family, I think if I was a resident at certain parts, I should not care to be a resident, but in other parts, I think it should not effect.

Q. How does it affect the town of Delta?—A. Well, our offal does not reach there.

Q. But we are speaking of offal generally?—A. Well, I am not prepared to give an answer as regards the Delta.

Q. Well, if your cannery was situated there?—A. I would like to have an opportunity of observing first, before I answer that question.

Q. Have you formed any views as regards the correctness of the close season?—A. I have not formed any views. Our managers have expressed themselves satisfied with the present regulations as it seems to work very well.

Q. It has been represented that it is unfair that part of the Sunday should be allowed for carrying on fishing. Many fishermen have respect for Sunday as a day of rest, etc., while there is fishing on that day; many think it should terminate at 12 o'clock?—A. Well, I can only express the general view of our fishermen, namely, that the present regulation is found to work well.

Q. You think the licenses should be non-transferable?—A. I think not.

Q. And the fees also should be alike?—A. Yes; for the Fraser River, fishermen and cannerymen alike.

Q. Well, as regards the Skeena and Naas River?—A. I think the present rule should govern, but if hatcheries are put up, I would be different. Now, at Rivers Inlet one might be put up.

Q. Oh, I forgot to ask you that question. What do you think of the effect of hatcheries?—A. I am not able to give an opinion on that subject.

Q. But what do the most of the fishermen and others think. You, as an experienced man, and having a good deal to do with the fisheries, could you not tell us?—A. Well, the general opinion is that it cannot do any harm and may do a good deal of good, but I do not think we are in a position yet to give any decided opinion upon it.

Q. But you would like one at Rivers Inlet?—A. I think it might be considered. It might not be found a good place for one, but I think the question of hatcheries for the northern rivers should be considered.

Q. Can you tell us the average catch of your canneries? What was the number of fish taken in the cannery to make your output?—A. I am sorry to say my knowledge of that is not sufficient to enable me to give any correct answer.

Q. But could you not say from information you have from your workmen?—A. Well, I have heard, I think, it takes about 10 or 12 fish to a case; but I could get this information, as we record in our books the catch of each boat, and that book is at the disposal of the Commission if they require it.

Q. It would be well if you could transcribe from that book the average number for the last few years; the object of the Commission is to get all information possible upon this question; I have noticed that many think the object of the department is to curtail as much as possible the working of this great industry, but it is quite incorrect; the department does not desire to curtail at all this great industry. Have you anything more to say, Mr. Johnston, on any of the leading questions?—A. No; I have nothing further to say.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Have you had any experience in establishing an oilery or establishment for taking care of this offal?—A. We contributed offal from our cannery for two years, but we had no interest in the factory beyond putting \$50 in it for the privilege of being allowed to give them our offal.

Q. Do you know the result of that oilery?—A. I have no personal knowledge, but I have heard it was not a success.

Q. How long ago was that?—A. I heard it last year, but I did not think they intended doing it again. We paid them \$50 for receiving it and delivered it.

Q. Did they make fish manure out of it?—A. No; I think they only made some oil.

Q. Can you give amount of capital invested in canneries on the Fraser River particularly?—A. Well, it is information I should not like to give an answer off-hand.

Q. When could you give it—later on in the day?—A. I think so.

Q. Would that be admissible, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, if he wishes to give this in writing.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I would prefer it being given in evidence. I think it would be inconsistent with our practice to have it sworn to. We can adjourn now, and Mr. Johnston can come back again.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Will it answer your purpose, sir, to come again?—A. Any time, sir, it answers your purpose, I shall be glad to come in.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Only that I cannot be here to hear you.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, but if he gave it in writing, would it not do?

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes; I presume it would. What I require also, Mr. Johnston—I would require the amount given for rolling capital—to keep matters going.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, if he gives other canneries, it will require cross-examination. It might require investigation on account of other canneries.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, but never mind the expenses of other canneries—we want the amount of capital invested. I ask him his opinion of the value of capital invested on the Fraser River.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, then, if he only gives an opinion, it will come in as information only.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, but that is what we want to get at.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Have you anything further to say—Would you prefer to put it in writing or appear before the board?—A. Just whatever suits you, sir.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Very well; put it in writing.—A. Very well; it will be put in.

FRANCIS PAGE, a native of Scotland, in British Columbia since 1862, a merchant, and resident of Victoria, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Have you anything to submit to this Commission?—A. Well, I wish to submit the annual inventory of one of the canneries on the Fraser River, in which I am interested, with amount of stock we carry over, amount of plant, etc.

Q. What cannery is that, sir?—A. The "Wellington" is one and the "Delta" also.

Q. Both on the Fraser River?—Yes; one at the mouth of Canoe Pass, and the other at Colithuan Slough.

Q. You are interested as proprietor, are you?—A. Yes.

Q. Well, if you have any suggestion to make?—A. I would merely wish to show the amount of money invested in a cannery, buildings and plant, and stock carried over and steam-boat.

Q. Would you call a steam-boat as part of the plant?—A. Well, no; but it is part of the whole. I would give buildings and machinery and material carried over.

Q. What do you mean by material carried over?—A. Well, the material we could not use during the season.

Q. Not the actual goods carried over?—A. Oh, no.

Q. Well, now, value of buildings and machinery?—A. Buildings, \$14,965; machinery, \$9,530; material for making cans, etc., \$14,098; office furniture, \$232; mess house, \$67; steamer, \$3,000; total, \$41,892. The land we valued at \$150 an acre, but to-day it is worth \$500 for the purposes we use it.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. How much land have you got?—A. Fifteen acres.

Q. Oh, but you do not require that much land for a cannery?—A. Well, most of it is required; the land is needed for Indians' houses, etc.

Q. How much for the "Delta" cannery?—A. Five acres.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. What is the total of that?—A. \$41,892, and that is all capital lying idle.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. How do you mean lying idle?—A. Well, we have to carry it over for next season.

Q. Can you tell us how many cans of fish you sold last year?—A. I cannot tell you, sir, but I could find it out from our agent.

Q. If I tell you, sir, cannot I come pretty nearly correct?—A. I don't know.

Q. You say the "Wellington" is one?—A. Yes, and the "Delta."

Q. Now, cannot you give us an idea; there were 12,870 cases recorded as coming out of the "Delta" the year before last; has value of property increased since 1890 to 1891?—A. I think it has increased.

Q. Well, what was value in 1890?—A. Well, this money is what the cannery cost us.

Q. Do you say this is invested here or invested last year?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you say land is increasing?—A. This is an inventory of the property.

Q. Precisely, and you say it was worth so much in 1891; now, what was it worth in 1890?—A. We have not valued it at any more than we did a year ago.

Q. Well, what was your invoice a year ago?—A. I have not got it here; the land of course increased; the values are the same; the buildings, etc.

Q. Well, we will let that drop; can you tell us the value of the stock, the canned salmon, as made at "Wellington" cannery?—A. Well, that is a very hard thing to say; it depends how much you pay for your fish.

Q. Yes; but if persons keep such an accurate account they would surely give figures of pack?

Mr. RITHET (from audience)—Now, this just shows the folly of the working of the Commission. These matters are matters which I wished to bring to the notice of the Commission. Mr. Page is not familiar with them. I could have given you all information you wished and stood cross-examination, but you would not let me.

Mr. WILMOT.—Then, Mr. Page, you cannot give the value except from such papers as you have?

Mr. HIGGINS.—I think Mr. Page has answered these questions very satisfactorily.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Do you include the land in the forty-one thousand odd?—A. Certainly, the land is valued at cost; it is what we paid for it ten years ago; I have the inventory also of the "Delta" cannery.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Then it is capital invested.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, as I stated, Mr. Page, when you put in papers with figures you are liable to cross-examination, otherwise it would not show.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I think it is very good evidence.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Have you anything else?—A. I have an inventory of the "Delta" as well.

Q. And are you prepared to answer questions on it?—A. I have not had very much time to become familiar with the statement, but I daresay this is an inventory of the cannery and plant of the "Delta."

Q. What does "cannery and plant" mean, sir?—A. First of all there is the cannery buildings, \$9,000.

Q. And land also?—A. Yes; the land goes in with it.

Buildings and land.....	\$9,000
Steam boiler.....	1,200

Q. The "cannery" means then simply the building, the shed?—A. Yes.

Q. Very well; go on?—A. 2 "Hagar" pumps, \$518; 1 injector and fittings, \$60; steam-fittings, pipes, etc., \$500; 14 kettles and coils for boiling fish in, \$420; piping for steam pumps, \$40; 145 coolers at \$6 apiece, \$870; 200 coolers at \$4.50 apiece (for flat cans) \$900.

Q. How large are they in size?—A. I could not exactly tell you; they are quite three feet.

Q. How deep?—A. From two to four inches.

Q. And how wide apart?—A. Quite three feet. (continuing reading)

7 travellers.....	\$40
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Q. Living or dead travellers? (Laughter)—A. They are living when you pull them with a rod. I saw one once fall on a Chinaman's head and he thought it was alive then. (Laughter.)

Cooler covers.....	\$70
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Q. Is that for keeping them from getting "swelled heads"?—A. Oh, no. (Laughter.)

Q. Well, if you will put in the whole paper we will take them?—A. Why, yes, sir.

Mr. RITHET.—But these papers are ours; we don't want to leave them with you.

Mr. WILMOT.—But if you put in these matters we must keep the evidence. I want to keep these facts.

Mr. HIGGINS.—But here is a recapitulation, would not that do? All these little matters do you not think they are necessary for a cannery?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, that is just it. I don't think all these things are necessary for running a cannery. Now let us bring this matter to an end; are you willing to put this in, if not, we will consider that you refuse to put these figures in.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Do you put that paper in as evidence?

(Witness demurs and pauses.)

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Give us the gross amount; I am satisfied with that?—A. \$36,346.46 for the "Delta" cannery.

Mr. RITHET.—Less the——(remainder of sentence inaudible.)

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Mr. Rithet, this is our business, not yours.

Mr. PAGE.—The total amount is \$37,969.76.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Do you give us that paper as evidence or not?—A. I cannot part with this paper, sir.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Now, what is the working capital required to carry on this cannery ; have you any idea of that?—A. Well, I don't know exactly how much it costs to put up a case of salmon ; some years it costs more than others ; last year I guess it cost nearly \$4.

Q. Do you remember how many you put up last year?—A. About 12,000.

Q. In 1891 you put up 12,000?—A. Well, figures cannot lie if put in in evidence.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, I insist in this, these papers being put in in evidence. In a court you must put in any papers you offer.

Mr. RITHET.—A court is a permanent institution, but this is different.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I tell you Mr. Rithet we have all the powers and authority of a Supreme Court.

Mr. WILMOT.—More than that we are a Royal Commission.

Mr. RITHET.—Oh, I know—I have been on a Royal Commission before now.

Mr. WILMOT.—Matters given here and submitted to the Government are supposed to assist the Government in regulating these important matters and any papers put in should be left with us.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Well now, you say working capacity for 12,000 cases?—A. Yes, about that.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Have you taken that statement from the paper in your hands or not? A. I have taken them from this myself.

Q. Do you put that paper in as evidence?—A. No, I do not.

Q. If you are asked to put that in as evidence you say no?—A. I say no—it does not belong to me.

Q. Then you are giving your evidence upon another persons statement?—A. Yes.

Q. Very well, that is all I want to know. I now put it to the Board whether this evidence given by Mr. Page shall be taken as evidence, unless the paper is given?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I say it is not evidence at all.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I say it is most important evidence.

Mr. WILMOT.—I say it is not evidence at all for this Commission unless the paper is given to us.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well now, gentlemen, you refuse to put in this paper—we will give you a copy of it—how do we know it is genuine?

Mr. RITHET (indignantly).—It is genuine, sir.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Then you refuse to put in the paper?—A. Yes ; I have said so before.

Q. Have you anything further to say, Mr. Page?—A. No.

Mr. J. H. TODD.—I wish to ask a question of privilege—it is in regard to the question put to Mr. Ashdowne Green, the other day, when asked if he had been sworn. I see this following report in the *Colonist* of yesterday :—

“Mr. Todd,” said Mr. Wilmot, “represented to me that not only had you not been sworn, but furthermore that the omission on my part was intentional.”

Mr. WILMOT.—I made that statement.

Mr. TODD.—Well, now I beg to differ from you entirely, and I think if you will re-call the circumstances of the case you will see that my contention is correct. Now, if you will recollect that when Mr. Lomas came to give his evidence, I whispered to you

that Mr. Lomas was being heard without being sworn—Mr. Lomas then turned to me and said "you don't believe me unless I am sworn?" I then said, I was quite ready to accept his word with or without his oath, but others might construe it differently, or words to that effect.

Mr. WILMOT.—But it is the same thing, Mr. Todd—what you said was the same thing—now, if Mr. Todd wishes to make an apology—

Mr. TODD.—You are entirely and totally wrong in making such a statement.

Mr. WILMOT.—As far as I am personally concerned, it does not matter.

Mr. TODD.—But it matters to me, and I say that the statement you made was a deliberate untruth—it was an untruth.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Oh yes: take it back Mr. Chairman.

Mr. WILMOT.—No, sir; I won't take back what is untrue.

Mr. TODD (emphatically and striking the table with his fist).—It is an untruth, sir—I deny it emphatically.

Mr. RITHET.—Hear, hear.

Mr. WILMOT.—Mr. Secretary, you will take down the fact of this applause.

Mr. RITHET.—Yes, you can take my name too

Mr. WILMOT.—(to Mr. Todd). And do you still mean to say, sir, that what is attributed to you in that paper is not true?

Mr. TODD.—Certainly I do—I appeal to anybody who was present yesterday and will ask them who is right in the matter.

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh, well never mind—we will adjourn now—to meet again here at 2.30 P.M.

The Commission adjourned at 1 p.m., to meet again at the same place at 2.30 p.m.

BOARD OF TRADE ROOMS,

VICTORIA, B.C., 7th March, 1892.

Afternoon Session.

The Commission met at 2.40 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Wilmot, in the Chair, and Armstrong, Mr. Secretary Winter.

On question by the Chair if any witnesses, and there being no response, the Commission was declared adjourned until 3 p.m.

At 3 p.m., the Commission was again called to order.

After an informal discussion by the Commissioners it was decided to permit Mr. M. Johnston to submit his statement by mail as he was not quite prepared to submit it at this sitting.

Mr. D. J. MUNN.—May I ask, Mr. Commissioners, if you intend taking evidence again at Westminster?

Mr. WILMOT.—I cannot say—if the matter is brought before us we may consider it, but I am not prepared to say we will or will not.

Mr. MUNN.—I would like to know, because I know of an important witness, and if he had a few days to look up matters, he would give very important evidence.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Where does he reside?

Mr. MUNN.—At Westminster.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, we will be taking evidence at Vancouver on Saturday—we cannot say until we get back to Westminster.

Mr. MUNN.—Well, I was just thinking as he was a Westminster man, it would take off time in taking evidence at Vancouver.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, we don't know if there are any at all, or how many.

Mr. WILMOT.—Yes, and if Mr. Higgins can come with us and go down the river and see the location of these places of which we have heard.

Mr. MUNN.—I should like very much to get this man's evidence in—he is a new man, and it would be most important.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, if there is nothing else before the Board we will adjourn till 1 p.m., on Wednesday, at Nanaimo, and so that it could be made known, I would suggest we wire the papers at Nanaimo and Vancouver to put in advertisements, notifying the public of the meetings in those places. From Nanaimo the Commission will adjourn until 1.10 a.m., on Saturday, at Vancouver.

The Commission thereupon adjourned at 3.10 p.m., to meet in Nanaimo at 10 a.m., on 9th March, 1892.

The following written statements were received from Mr. M. J. Johnston, who gave the main portion of his evidence at Victoria, on 7th March—and were received as a portion or addition to such evidence.

“VICTORIA, B.C., 11th March, 1892.

“The Secretary,
“The Fisheries Commission,
Vancouver, B.C.

“SIR,—For the information of the Commissioners, I beg to state in reply to the question which was addressed to me, viz.:—

“How many salmon were used for canning purposes and how many cases were packed with same at the Fraser River cannery—Deas' Island, last season?” “That 80,745 salmon (sockeyes) were supplied to the cannery, and were used in packing 7,137 cases of 48 one pound tins each—being an average of $11\frac{2}{3}$ fish per case. A tin, nominally one pound, contains more than a pound of fish—about $17\frac{1}{2}$ ounces as an average?”

“I am, sir,

“Your obedient Servant,

“(Signed), MATTHEW J. JOHNSTON.”

VICTORIA, B.C., 11th March, 1892.

“The Secretary,
The Fisheries Commission,
Vancouver, B.C.

“SIR,—I was requested to give an approximate estimate of the amount of capital invested in the canneries in operation on the Fraser River, and in reply to which, I beg to submit the following figures as my estimate:—

Average cost of land, buildings, machinery and plant. . . .	\$ 25,000
40 boats, complete with sails, etc., at \$40.	2,000
60 nets complete, at \$150.	9,000
Steam-boat and scows.	4,000
	<hr/>
	\$40,000
Capital required for a pack of 12,000 cases:—	
Material, labour, freights, insurance, etc., at \$3.75 per case. \$	45,000
	<hr/>
An average of each cannery of.	\$85,000
Or for 22 canneries, \$1,870,000.	

(Signed), MATTHEW J. JOHNSTON.

NANAIMO, B.C., 9th March, 1892.

The Commission was convened in the City Hall at 3 o'clock p.m., according to previous arrangement.

Present:—Mr. S. Wilmot in the Chair, Mr. Sheriff Armstrong, Mr. Secretary Winter. Several persons being present.

Mr. WILMOT.—In calling this meeting to order, I may say, gentlemen, that the Dominion Government has upon the representations of the British Columbia members of Parliament appointed a commission, consisting of myself, Chairman, the Honourable Speaker Higgins and Mr. Sheriff Armstrong, of New Westminster. The more special object of the Commission was to obtain voluntary information on the whole question of the fisheries of the province either by statement offered or by questioning by the Commissioners—the sea fisheries as well as the river fisheries will come under the scope of the Commission—and we will be glad to hear about any fisheries in your neighbourhood. I may further state that this Commission being duly organized, etc., as a Royal Commission, we follow out the usual course followed in a court—all evidence will be taken under oath, and questions put and answered under oath. I cannot help but draw attention to the fact that we have been rather forestalled in coming here. I see by your *Free Press* that some young men here have been discussing in a mock parliament the matter of seines, etc., also the matter of slabs and saw-dust being put in the river and which is claimed to kill young fish. That is a most important matter and one we will take up. I also see it stated that this Commission is now sitting in Victoria, and will make a report at an early day. We will now proceed to business.

WALTER ROOS, a native of Russia, a British subject, resident in Nanaimo for seven years, and describing himself as a deep-sea fisher, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, sir, if you have any remarks or suggestion, we will be glad to hear them.—A. Well, first, I will answer to your allusion to our mock parliament. I am the person that originated it here, and it is rather incorrectly reported. It is not the seining across the river, but a tug that is the trouble in the Gulf. I have had boats fishing these last three months. During that time, the principal fish that I have received—has been ling cod. A limited number of the northern cod, or some kind of cod that is caught on the Atlantic coast, or on the banks, are caught, but they are limited here. One day the man brought in twenty.

Q. Do you conflict them with black cod?—A. That is real genuine black cod. These fish are very small in size—not averaging over from four to seven pounds—none that I have caught any way. I have also caught some turbot. Now, I am not aware I have ever eaten nor seen turbot on the Pacific coast before. We have had, perhaps, a couple of dozen. They are very scarce, but the practical man I employ tells me the turbot goes in very deep water, and the deepest water we have so far tried is 150 fathoms. I may also say that halibut is to be caught in this district—not that I would warrant any outside fishermen, say from the east or anywhere else, to come here under the belief that there was a great halibut industry here, but there is halibut, and they are now and then brought in, and I know there is a halibut fishery within ten or fifteen miles. So far, the trawl has been a failure—both halibut and other fisheries. The great drawback is in regard to the disposal of the fish.

Q. Not for want of fish, but a market?—A. Oh, there is an abundant supply of ling cod, but not sufficient of halibut and turbot, not even to supply the local market; but ling, caught for sale, could have been caught every day, and could have been sold in very large quantities. Now, there is another point upon which I would like to turn upon, and which I would strongly recommend the Commission to advise the Government to prohibit, this herring fishing for oil. There has been such a thing as oil factories which have started up in various parts of Puget Sound, and other parts of British Columbia, and wherever these oil factories have run for any time, they have invariably destroyed the herring industry. They haul in herring in large seines by hundreds of tons, and the herrings are simply boiled or crushed—which ever process they undergo—and then the oil is taken out, and it has a great tendency to destroy that kind of fish. It is well known after seining, where herrings were very plentiful some years ago; they are very scarce now. It is the same over in Vancouver now, I believe, where an oil factory has been running for some time. I do not know as I have any further remarks to make—perhaps the Commission might like to ask me a few questions?

Q. We might ask you a few. You say you are experimenting as to whether it would be profitable to go into the deep-sea fisheries. At present you have got the ling

cod, the black cod, the halibut and the turbot. Now, how is ling distinguished from black cod? Do you know cod on the Atlantic? A. No; they differ in some particulars. I have had Newfoundlanders fishing for me, and they tell me it cannot be dried—the flesh is too fat. In exposing it to the air, the fat works out to the fleshy side of the fish, and it turns yell w.

Q. And makes it rancid?—A. I suppose it does—the flesh turns yellow.

Q. Then ling cod here is the same as in Newfoundland?—A. No, they differ—the Atlantic cod has a sound, but these have not, their fins differ in some respects too.

Q. How about black cod—are they identical?—A. They are in many particulars—they have sounds.

Q. You say ling runs from 4 to 7 pounds? We noticed some cod in Victoria and New Westminster markets they would range larger than that.—A. It would be the ling or black cod—the ling cod is a large fish—a very large fish.

Q. How big?—A. From 16 to 40 pounds.

Q. Then the black cod is a good eating fish?—A. Yes, it is a good saleable fish and where the local market cannot consume it, it can be cured and dried.

Q. How is your climate adapted for drying cod?—A. Oh, I think it is splendid.

Q. Then you think if a market was opened up the black cod, or your real cod as you term it, would become quite an article of commerce and would induce fishermen to come here?—A. Undoubtedly, but as I said before, there are but limited numbers of them.

Q. Would that be because few people were fishing for them or because they were few in numbers?—A. I think they are scarce in numbers.

Q. How far out have you fished for them?—A.—About 10 miles up.

Q. Are there any other persons who practice this mode of fishing?—A. I am not aware of them. Indians spear many of the ling cod, but I do not know if they get many of the right cod.

Q. Then you think a profitable industry for the province might be got up if there was an outlet for sale?—A. Yes, well right in Nanaimo it might be a difficult thing—for my experience would not warrant me to say it would be a success.

Q. Do you know if fish extend any length along the coast?—A. Oh yes, we have caught them 20 miles along the coast.

Q. Is the turbot like the turbot of the Atlantic coast?—A. Yes.

Q. And they would average?—A. About 5 pounds.

Q. A good well-meated fish?—A. Yes, splendid.

Q. What has been done with those caught?—A. They have been sold in the local market.

Q. Do you think them sufficiently numerous to make a commercial transaction if entered into fully?—A. Well, I have tried it for 3 months—it is a fish that swims in very deep water and the deepest that the men have fished is 150 fathoms.

Q. How do you catch them?—A. In trawls.

Q. And halibut you think not numerous?—A. Well, they may be according to the season of the year, because in Victoria I find in summer many halibut, while in winter they are very scarce. It may be but some years—of course, I have only tried this winter.

Q. Have you noticed in the Victoria papers and papers south, that vast quantities have been brought down?—A. Yes, steam-boats bring them from up north.

Q. But your experience is you have caught them, but you have not gone into the business sufficiently to say you have caught them numerously?—A. No, I have not.

Q. But you think from experience up north they would be here?—A. Well, I think they would be in the summer months.

Q. What is the average size of halibut here?—A. Forty-five pounds.

Q. You have caught larger?—A. Yes, some about eighty and ninety.

Q. And what market have you for them?—A. Only the local market for the few we have caught. I may also mention, as far as my experience goes, I would say the most important here is the oil fishery; in the industry alone, there must be from 100 to 150 men employed in that industry now, taking the fish for their oil.

Q. Would that include the small shark?—A. Yes.

Q. And is it wholly converted into oil?—A. No: only the liver, and the body is thrown away as offal: undoubtedly the small audience here to-day is due to the fact that these dog-fish men are now away from the city engaged in their work, about 14 miles north of here.

Q. Is any attempt made to make fertilizer out of the refuse?—A. No.

Q. Does it answer farmers' purposes to use it?—A. Oh, yes, it is a good fertilizer, but my experience of fertilizer is that it does not answer for root crops.

Q. For cereals would it answer?—A. For hay, oats and wheat I have seen it answer very well.

Q. Then at present the dog-fish oil industry employs some 100 to 150 hands, and the liver only is used, and the rest thrown away?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you any knowledge of the effects of that offal thrown away, or is the business sufficiently large to form any opinion?—A. Fishermen are of opinion that it injures the fisheries by throwing it away; they think it should be saved from going in the water, but it is not done.

Q. What do they do with it then?—A. They generally leave it on the beach and dogs, bears, etc., eat it.

Q. But their general impression is that it is injurious and they don't throw it in, but leave it on shore?—A. Yes.

Q. You spoke of herrings caught for oil being detrimental. Do you mean that catching large quantities of herring and using them reduces their numbers?—A. It is reducing their numbers, for you see a large factory can use from 100 to 150 tons a day; there is very little oil in herring, and there must be tremendous quantities used to make it a paying business.

Q. Do they make anything else out of it, fertilizer or anything?—A. I don't know.

Q. Is it for oil only?—A. I have no experience in the business.

Q. Will the profit be from oil or fertilizer, or both?—A. Both, I should think.

Q. Is the oil sold in considerable quantities?—A. I don't know.

Q. Where does it go?—A. I don't know.

Q. You only know there are factories and they consume large quantities of herring, but you do not know anything of the profits?—A. No: there was a factory here started but it is closed down.

Q. Then you think the herrings are reduced by such large quantities being caught and the refuse thrown in?—A. Oh, I think the refuse is taken away.

Q. What was the result in Vancouver?—A. The herring has become very scarce; I have heard from fishermen that they cannot get even any bait.

Q. And are there herrings there?—A. They are very scarce; it has killed out the herring industry to a very large extent.

Q. You spoke of large seines—the manner in which they catch them—you know what a purse seine is?—Yes.

Q. Do they use purse seines?—A. Yes.

Q. How far do they go out to catch them?—A. Oh, sometimes the school is out a piece—wherever they see a school, they go out and put their seines around them. The quantity of herring they catch can be got from the fact, that a small steamer from Victoria, in one haul, got twenty-five tons of herrings.

Q. Do you know what was done with them?—A. They were taken on the steamboat and taken to Victoria.

Q. What did they do with twenty-five tons of herring there?—A. I think they sold it to fishermen, who sold it for bait.

Q. What fish do they catch with that bait?—A. Halibut, dog-fish, etc.

Q. Are any salmon caught along this coast?—A. Some, in the spring of the year.

Q. Are they caught entering the rivers or out off on the coasts?—A. No; I think the principal part are taken off the lighthouse.

Q. Does the Nanaimo River run in her?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do salmon come up the river at all?—A. Well, some may. The only ones I have known to come up are hooked-nosed salmon.

Q. Are they spring salmon or sockeye?—A. No. The hooked-nosed salmon are not saleable at all.

Q. What season when they come in?—A. In the fall.

Q. And you never see them this time of the year?—A. No.

Q. Not between this and the fall?—A. No.

Q. What do you mean by hook-nosed salmon?—A. Well, there is a hook on the upper jaw.

Q. Wholly on the upper jaw or on the lower also?—A. Wholly on the upper jaw, I think. I have never seen any on the lower jaw.

Q. Do you know sockeye salmon?—A. Yes.

Q. Any in this river?—A. Well, there were some caught out in the harbour, but I do not think in the river.

Q. Can salmon go up the river—are there any obstructions?—A. I don't think so. There may be.

Q. There are no canneries about here?—A. No.

Q. Do you know anything of trout coming up the streams?—A. Yes; there are considerable quantities of large trout in the lake.

Q. What do you call large trout?—A. About twenty or twenty-five pounds.

Q. Would they be sea trout?—A. Well, the only two kinds I have ever heard of are salmon trout and mountain trout.

Q. The salmon trout would run what size?—A. Three and a half to four pounds.

Q. Might they not be the same fish?—A. No; I think the flesh differs. The mountain trout is nicer eating.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. You don't know what was done with offal from the factory that was established here?—A. It only ran a few days, and was stopped for some reasons which I don't know. There were plenty of herring, but still the factory was stopped.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Do you know if stopped by order of the town here as a nuisance, or anything of that kind?—A. No; I don't know.

Q. Thank you, Mr. Roos. Unless you have something else to suggest yourself, that will do?—A. No; I have nothing further.

FRAK VOZZAN, a native of Italy—10 years in British Columbia, formerly a fisherman on the Fraser River, but now a dog-fish fisherman, a resident of Nanaimo, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, what have you to say, sir?—A. Well, I was on the Fraser River before I came here—and then by that license business—when we could not get any more licenses I came here and fished for dog-fish.

Q. You are desirous of getting licenses to fish in the Fraser River?—A. And here too.

Q. Licenses in the Fraser River would be for salmon fishing and here for every kind of fish you could catch?—A. Yes, for dog-fish principally.

Q. You had license on the Fraser River?—A. Yes, I had licenses right along for six years.

Q. And did you make application for licenses lately?—A. Yes, but they would not give it to me—they gave to other people—new hands that came in, but not to all hands.

Q. Have you become a British subject by taking out the necessary papers?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Then you are actually a British subject, as far as naturalization is concerned?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long since you took out papers?—A. About three years ago.

Q. And you got licenses on the Fraser River before you took out papers?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And when you applied lately you were refused—why?—A. Well, they said they were so many licenses given out and they could not give any more.

Q. How many years did you fish on the Fraser?—A. Well, since 1882 I have fished in the Fraser River.

Q. What portion did you fish in?—A. Well, from Mr. Ewen's and all along the river—all about the sand heads and upwards.

Q. Did you ever keep count of the fish you caught?—Yes, sometimes I did.

Q. What average would you take in a season? when you fished for sockeye?—A. Well, we finished for spring salmon and sockeye—we didn't fish for—

Q. Well, in a good season—how many would you catch?—A. In a big season we might get 500 or 600 a day—in a poor run we might average 40 a day.

Q. What did you get for your fish—how much?—A. Well, generally 10 cents.

Q. Did you ever get more fish than you could dispose of?—A. No, I caught only those they would take from me.

Q. Did you ever catch more than they would take from you?—A. Well, sometimes I did, but I had to give them away for nothing, sometimes I salted them.

Q. Were you in the habit of throwing them away in the water?—A. No, I never did that.

Q. Were you aware others did that?—A. No, I never saw anybody throw them away—we gave them to the Indians to dry—the Indians will take them any time.

Q. Where did you live when there?—A. In a small sloop—eight or ten tons.

Q. Was offal thrown into the river then?—A. Yes, well they threw it under the canneries.

Q. Do you think the offal gave any injurious effects to the water, or fish, or health?—A. Well, I don't think so, because the heavy freshets of the river would carry it all away.

Q. You don't think it any harm to the river, fish, or health?—A. No, I don't think it does any harm.

Q. Have you been fishing here?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you had any license?—A. Well, no one asked me for license.

Q. What kind of fish do you catch here?—A. Rock cod, ling, halibut, etc.

Q. The same as this gentleman stated before you?—Yes; sir.

Q. Do you find a market for all you catch?—A. Well, we get them away as well as we can.

Q. Do you catch any sockeye?—A. No; I hear some Indians got them out by the lighthouse, but I never got any.

Q. Any spring salmon?—A. Yes; in the winter.

Q. Where do you catch those spring salmon?—A. Well, in Departure Bay and other places. Whenever there is any herring around, they follow the herring.

Q. What average size would you catch here?—A. About 25 lbs.

Q. Do you find any spring salmon red and white meat or all one colour?—A. Yes; both red and white.

Q. Which is best?—A. Well, lots of people think the red, but I think the white is richest.

Q. Can you sell all you catch here?—A. Yes; in the winter. There is a great market here in the winter.

Q. But just to use themselves, or does anybody send them away anywhere else?—A. Well, I don't know. I don't think they send them away.

Q. Have you seen any spring salmon up the rivers?—A. Sometimes they go up a little piece, but in shallow water they cannot go far up.

Q. When do you see this?—A. In December.

Q. Do you know when they spawn; when they lay their eggs?—A. No; I don't know.

Q. Do you know where they go to spawn?—A. No; I don't know. Some say Nanaimo River, but I don't know.

Q. Do they go up in December?—A. Yes; in December, January, and those months.

Q. And you catch them out on these coasts in those months?—A. Yes, in March, April and May.

Q. What do you catch in May?—A. Well, when the herring leaves the coast the fishing is played out, except what you catch along the shore; ling cod, etc.

Q. How many fishermen are engaged here?—A. About 50 more or less.

Q. And they all pursue fishing the same as you do; the same kind of fish?—A. Yes; sir.

Q. What net do you use?—A. What for?

Q. For salmon?—A. Well, we catch salmon in the same sized mesh as we catch the dog-fish.

Q. What size would that be?—A. $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Q. Is it a floating net or what?—A. No; we sink it to the bottom. There is no tide there and it rests on the bottom.

Q. You don't fasten it with stakes or anything?—A. No.

Q. What is the height of tide here?—A. About 14 feet.

Q. A pretty good tide, is it not?—A. Yes; sir.

Q. And you fish with a net with lead lines taking the bottom and the cork lines on top?—A. No, sir; the lead lines are not always on the bottom.

Q. But the cork lines are on the surface?—A. Oh, yes; sir.

Q. Do you fish with seines?—A. Yes; sometimes.

Q. And what is the seine like?—A. A bag seine.

Q. And what length?—A. About 150 fathoms.

Q. And what size of mesh in that net?—A. In the bag it will be small mesh, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch, and as you get out to the edges it will be larger.

Q. What size in the bag?—A. About an inch mesh.

C. Extension measure or square?—A. Extension.

Q. Then inch mesh would make $\frac{1}{2}$ inch square?—A. Yes, about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch square—it makes over an inch when stretched out.

Q. What do you catch in this net?—A. Some rock cod, flounders—sometimes ling cod.

Q. What small fish do you get in it?—A. Little tommy cods.

Q. Any oulachs?—A. No sir.

Q. Any small trout?—A. Sometimes—very seldom.

Q. And young salmon?—A. Very seldom.

Q. But you do catch some now and then?—A. Very seldom.

Q. And the young salmon—what size would it be?—A. Only about two pounds.

Q. Do you ever catch any little salmon—6 or 8 inches long?—A. Oh no, they go through the mesh.

Q. How can they go through half inch mesh?—A. Well, sometimes they may get them, but it is very seldom we get so small as that.

Q. And when you take in the seine you take them all, rock cod, little salmon and all kinds? What do you do with little fish that are so small you cannot sell them?—A. Well, we always let them go, they are no use to us.

Q. How do you let them out?—A. Well, we just let down the net and they walk away themselves.

Q. Do all go away alive?—A. Oh yes, part of them.

Q. Do you ever haul your seine on shore and after picking out the large ones, leave the small ones there?—A. Well, there are some little ones that have no chance to get away and they remain there.

Q. Where do you haul these seines, in the harbour here?—A. Sometimes outside and sometimes in the harbour. Generally between here and Departure Bay.

Q. Do these other brother fishermen fish that way with seines?—A. No, I have not seen one.

Q. Only yourself fishing with a seine?—A. Well, there may be some from Cowichan Bay and if they went for bait they will fish with a seine. We don't fish all the time with a seine.

Q. But fishermen from Cowichan do the same as yourself?—A. Cowichan Gap, yes there are some do the same.

Q. And then your principal object in coming here is that you want license to fish here and in the Fraser River as well?—A. Yes sir.

Q. You want drift net license as well as seine?—A. Yes.

Q. But if restricted to only one which would you want?—A. I would rather have one to fish in Fraser River.

Q. That is salmon license with 6 inch mesh—5 $\frac{3}{4}$ rather?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you ever fish down at Cowichan?—A. No sir, I have fished down there six years ago, but not lately.

Q. Have you anything else you wish to bring before the Commission?—A. No sir. Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Thank you.

BARTHOLEMEW LACOSTE, a native of Italy, a British subject, 12 years living in British Columbia, a resident of Nanaimo, a fisherman, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well sir, what do you want?—A. I want a license.

Q. Have you ever applied for them?—A. Yes, I fished in 1882, in the Fraser River, and then came up here.

Q. Have you ever had licenses on the Fraser River?—A. I fished with the previous witness, Frank Vozzan,

Q. The same license did you both?—A. Yes, we fished together.

Q. Do you endorse what he says as to fishing on Fraser River, the quantity of fish caught, etc.?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you use a seine here to?—A. Yes, sometimes.

Q. And do you catch fish of the same kind?—A. Yes, the same kind.

Q. With some meshes, bag-net?—A. Yes, I fished with the last witness; we are partners.

Q. And you corroborate what he says?—A. Yes.

Q. And you want a license?—A. Yes, I want a license, that is all; I want to fish for salmon in Fraser River, and go there in the fishing season and fish.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, sir, we have your statement down, unless you have something further to say, that will do.

D. S. McDONALD, a native of Scotland, 16 years in British Columbia, a merchant, and resident of Nanaimo, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Now, sir, what do you desire to say?—A. Well, there is one thing I observed last summer, the stream that goes out from off side of this harbour; there are three lakes connected with it; Fishhawk Lake, Thunder Lake and Troboy Lake; the stream passes through from the upper lake right straight down through, and there is a little outlet goes into the second lake, and there is a dam which stops fish.

Q. Which is farthest up?—A. Fishhawk Lake, the next is Thunder Lake, and the last is Troboy Lake. I have a little diagram here from which you will understand the positions (showing Chairman diagram).

Q. And how far is the dam from the tide water?—A. Well, the tide backs up to the dam.

Q. Well, what do you want to say about this?—A. My object I will explain to you. I am very fond of the fishing rod; 10 or 12 years ago, I used to go to either of these lakes and catch trout, but since the dam has been across you cannot catch one of them.

Q. What is the height of this dam?—A. Well, I cannot say; it stops the tide from going up; there is a flood-gate on it, and the water comes and shuts the gate.

Q. And any fish going up would be stopped or fish coming down?—A. I think the water is so low when the tide goes out that fish cannot come out in that particular place.

Q. But any fish coming down and the flood gate open ; fish could come down could they not ?—A. Yes.

Q. What size is the stream from Troboy Lake ?—A. Well, in summer time about 15 or 20 feet across.

Q. And of what depth ? What kind of bottom ?—A. Gravelly bottom.

Q. Is it pure clear water as a rule, except in freshets ?—A. Well, from Troboy Lake it has muddy streams flowing into it, etc., but from the dam up it is clear water for say two miles.

Q. What fish do you catch there ?—A. Trout.

Q. What do you mean by trout ?—A. The salmon trout ; I don't think there is any mountain trout here.

Q. You have been in the eastern country ?—A. Yes ; I have been all through Nova Scotia, and the trout we catch there has a small red spot and we never catch them here.

Q. Then the speckled trout are not here ?—A. No, I think they are young salmon trout. There are large salmon trout caught, six or seven pounds, up at the falls, and they resemble these very much.

Q. The only thing is, I find there is a considerable difference of opinion here on this matter ; now, what is your description of salmon trout ?—A. Well, the scales of parr is larger.

Q. What do you then call "parr ?"—A. A young salmon about six inches long.

Q. With a band along the sides and spots ?—A. No ; those I call the trout.

Q. But they are young salmon in a different stage. Well, these ones you get in the lakes ?—A. I call them salmon trout. They are marked across the body and have no specs on them.

Q. Are you prepared to say they were not young salmon ?—A. To the best of my belief they are young salmon.

Q. And would be produced by salmon going up to those lakes and going into smaller streams to breed ?—A. Yes.

Q. And the killing of these—do you consider it objectionable as against allowing them to come down and become full-grown ?—A. Well, that size—you never take them out with hook and line.

Q. But as they get larger you would ?—A. Yes ; in a different stage.

Q. But don't you think it injurious to kill those salmon ?—A. Yes ; but it is more injurious to spoil the stream and not let them go up at all.

Q. Yes, but if you kill them off, you will have none at all ?—A. Well, but that is looking very far ahead. Probably the plovers would get them, anyway.

Q. Then you say the dam should be removed to let salmon pass up and breed ?—A. Yes.

Q. And should I say to let you catch them with a fly ?—A. Well, they have got scarce since the dam has been there.

Q. But I think it a bad argument for you to say that the dam should be removed to save the fish, so you could kill them with a fly ?—A. Perhaps it is a selfish motive.

Q. What is the dam up here for ? Any motive power or manufactory ?—A. No—to prevent the land being flooded above.

Q. Is the land occupied by farmers above this gate ?—A. I cannot tell you.

Q. Are there any residents there ?—A. Oh, yes ; on the high land there is. I cannot say how many acres would be flooded.

Q. Then the stoppage of the water benefits how many ?—A. Only one farmer, and it prevents fish from going up to breed.

Q. Is this dam on his own land ?—A. I cannot tell you. To the best of my knowledge it is, but I don't know.

Q. Well, it does not matter.—No man has the right to stop the passage of fish up stream.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. He effectually stops them then ?—A. Yes.

Q. And you desire to see the law made, if there is none now, to stop this?—A. Yes.

(Voice from audience.)—Three years ago there was a petition got up to stop this.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Well, I may say it is against the law now to do this. Any of you can go to a magistrate here and have any one fined who does this.—A. Well, I wanted to know if it was right that this man should do this. If it is wrong, why it is wrong to me and the balance of the community.

Q. There is no doubt it is wrong, sir, as far as the law is concerned, but I, of course, cannot decide such matters or give you advice on the matter. However, your statement is recorded, and it will appear before the authorities, and will be taken up with other matters in connection with the fisheries of British Columbia.

P. S. CURRY, a native of England, 22 years in British Columbia—a resident of Nanaimo, and describing himself as an Indian trader, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Have you anything to say relative to this stoppage at the dam?—A. Well, I have nothing much to say, but every one is of my opinion, that the dam was stopping the fish from going up. There used to be good fishing some years ago, but now there is no trout at all—I know three years ago there was a petition got up among the settlers to have this dam taken down.

Q. To whom did the petition go to?—A. I don't know—or whether it was ever sent.

Q. Did you sign it?—A. No—I was not a settler.

Q. Who is your fishery officer here?—A. We have none—at the time the petition was got up it was Charles York.

Q. Is not Mr. Malpas here?—A. Yes.

Q. And you don't know whether the petition was sent to York or not?—A. I don't know—but I know every one is of the same opinion that the dam is injurious to the lakes.

Q. Is it your impression too?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is the dam made of—earth or wood?—A. Both, I think—I have seen it once.

Q. A log dam with earth thrown upon it?—A. Yes,

Q. And this swing gate in the middle?—A. Yes, it is only for preventing the water from going on some hay lands.

Q. And what space would the gate leave?—A. About three feet—somewhere near that.

Q. Then water would rush through very rapidly when the tide was coming in and would shut the gate quickly?—A. Yes, it is simply for keeping the water from going on the land.

Q. When you have heard that gentleman before you speak with regard to the lakes—do you corroborate that?—A. All except I differ with him as regards the trout—he calls them salmon—I call them fresh water trout.

Q. What is it marked like?—A. Different marks on them—some spotted and streaked.

Q. You are not prepared to say they are young salmon?—A. I don't think them young salmon.

Q. Have you sufficient experience to say whether they are young salmon or trout?—A. I never fished for salmon—they were all trout that came to my net. (Laugh).

Q. And whoever sells them—they would say they were young salmon, I suppose? (Laughter.) I may say it is very difficult for any one to tell between young salmon and trout but they can be told. And you would catch different coloured fish from the different lakes—I think it is on account of the bottom—in a muddy bottomed lake, you

will catch them different to the gravelly bottom. Have you anything to say as to the big salmon?—A. No, I don't know anything about them, except I have seen them going up streams.

Q. Oh, you have in these streams spoken of?—A. Yes.

Q. What like—about what size?—A. Oh, weighing about twenty or twenty-five pounds.

Q. Yes, the spring salmon—when do you see them going up?—A. In the fall—after the rains have made the streams bigger.

Q. Well, that is the strongest evidence you could give that these little fish were salmon, because the big fish go up in the fall to deposit their eggs and then these are the little fish that come afterwards. (Laughter.)

MR. CURRY.—Is there not a proper close season for trout fishing here?

MR. WILMOT.—Yes; sir.

WITNESS.—Would you tell me when it closes? Some say one thing is the law and some another?

MR. WILMOT.—Well, the law is at present that no one shall kill trout from 15th October to 15th March.

MR. CURRY.—Is that for the angler?

MR. WILMOT.—Oh, well it does not matter.

WITNESS.—Well, many have different opinions. They think if fishing with a fly, they can fish any time.

MR. WILMOT.—Oh, no; you see there is a certain time when the trout breed, too; and the angler would destroy them, too; it does not matter, angler, spearsman, net fisherman, or Indian, all are equally prohibited during the close time.

MR. ARMSTRONG (to Witness).—Thank you, sir.

EDWARD QUESNELLE, a native of England, 26 years in British Columbia, a resident of Nanaimo, and by occupation a butcher, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. What have you to say?—A. It was just in regard to the evidence about fish in Fish-Hawk Lake. I used to log near there a few years ago. Before the dam was put across we used to get salmon in plenty; even in the ditches, we got two kinds,

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. What is the name of this stream?—A. It has no name; it is a small outlet from these two lakes.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. How far from here?—A. Oh, about two or three miles.

Q. And Fish-Hawk Lake?—A. About eight miles.

Q. And the whole extent of stream from Fish-Hawk Lake?—A. From Fish-Hawk Lake down to salt water at the dam, 5 miles.

Q. And how long is Fish-Hawk Lake?—A. The longest part, 3 miles and average width $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile.

Q. Are there any small streams running into Fish-Hawk Lake?—A. Yes; several of them. What I wanted to state was, that before the dam was placed there the salmon went up regularly every year about the month of September. It varied sometimes, but after the dam was put across, the salmon stopped coming up.

Q. You have seen them caught up there in years gone by?—A. Oh, yes.

Q. And at any time?—A. Yes.

Q. And the size of the larger salmon?—A. 15, 20 and 25 lbs.; and the smaller ones 6 to 8 or 10 lbs.

Q. Were smaller ones numerous?—A. No; the larger ones were the most.

Q. What comparative difference; would the larger ones be double the smaller ones?—A. Oh, yes; there were only a few small ones, and after they went up the ditches would be covered with spawn.

Q. Did the smaller ones spawn?—A. Well, I don't know. I don't think so.
Q. Were the smaller ones same as the big ones, only smaller?—A. No; they did not look the same.

Q. Do you think they are the young of the large? Did you ever hear them called grilse?—A. No; they seemed to be somewhat red.

Q. Yes; that would be the sockeye salmon, and would the spawning places be gravelly bottom?—A. Yes.

Q. How do you know they were spawning there?—A. Well, we knew because we used to see the eggs there in the ditches.

Q. Would you see places where the gravel would be removed by the fish?—A. I never took that much notice. We used to see eggs sometimes in piles and sometimes scattered out.

Q. And they used to be caught pretty numerous?—A. Yes; you could catch as many as you had a mind to—you could take them out with a pitchfork.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. But how did you catch them as a rule?—A. Well, we used to get in the ditch and take them out.

Q. How many would you catch?—A. Oh, we only caught a few for our own use.

Q. But you could have caught many of them?—A. Oh, yes; as many as we had a mind to.

Q. And you think this dam has prevented fish from going up?—A. Yes.

Q. And the fish have become exterminated?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you any other rivers here similarly situated except the dam?—A. Oh yes; the Nanaimo River, and the Chase River.

Q. Do they still go up these rivers?—A. Yes; the Nanaimo River especially.

Q. Would they appear in about the same proportions as between the two kinds?—A. Yes, I think so.

Q. And many salmon go up the Nanaimo now?—A. Yes, at the same time of year as they used to in the other.

Q. And they kill young, in numbers while going up?—A. Principally by the Indians.

Q. And are many caught in the estuaries at the sea?—A. They don't catch them like they do on the Fraser River, but they could catch them if they wanted to.

Q. Are there any lakes on the Nanaimo River?—A. Yes; small ones.

Q. And anything to prevent fish going up there?—A. No.

Q. Do you see many dead fish any time in the Nanaimo River?—Yes; a great many.

Q. Do you think any return to the sea after going up to spawn?—A. Yes; a great many get killed and die but many return.

Q. Do you know this to be the case in this other stream?—A. Yes; before the dam was put in, but we found few dead ones there—it was a short stream and easier to get up.

Q. How long is the Nanaimo River up to the lakes?—A. About 20 miles to the first lakes, and 20 beyond that to the other lakes.

Q. Do you know some of them return from the upper lakes?—A. I don't know.

Q. Have you any oyster beds around here?—A. None nearer than Oyster Bay—there is one up north at Nanoose Bay.

Q. Are they fished very much?—A. I don't think any one fishes there except Indians—in Oyster Bay two or three whitemen fish there.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Have you any experience in fishing for halibut?—A. Not for halibut—I have for cod and salmon.

Q. What is the value of the big salmon in the market here?—A. \$1 a-piece.

Q. And the small salmon?—A. Down to ten cents or a "bit."

Q. Then you conclude in your mind that this dam has a tendency to destroy that particular family of fish that belonged to Fish-Hawk Lake?—A. Yes.

Q. And that Nanaimo River is still frequented by considerable numbers of spring salmon and the smaller fish?—A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Do you know anything about the sea fishing here?—A. No.

Q. It has been stated you know, that they use these small mesh nets and haul up large quantities of these small fish on the beach after taking out those for market, and leave the smaller ones to rot on the beach?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. The object of my colleague and myself in asking these questions about the seines is, that it is feared that many young salmon are caught and thus ruthlessly destroyed.—A. Oh, they don't catch many young salmon outside.

Q. Do you deal in fish at all?—A. Only for what I require for my own use.

Q. Is there a fish market here?—A. Yes.

Q. What fish are generally brought in?—A. Codfish, salmon, and all kinds.

Q. Do you know anything about the oyster fishery at all?—No, sir.

Mr. William Roos, who had previously given evidence, here stated :—

"It is absolutely necessary to use small meshed seines to catch the fish they require. They would catch none unless allowed to use the small mesh, as herring after were very small and go through very fine mesh. In a whole season I have caught only three or four young salmon, and it is really necessary to have half-inch mesh in the bunt of the seine."

The Commission adjourned at 5.20 p.m. to meet again in the same place at 10 a.m., on 10th March.

NANAIMO, 10th March, 1892.

Morning Session.

The Commission was convened at 10 a.m.

Present: Mr. S. Wilmot, in the Chair; Mr. Sheriff Armstrong, and Mr. Secretary Winter.

Mr. WILLIAM GREEN, a native of England, five years in British Columbia, resident of Nanaimo, describing himself as a trader, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, what would you like to put before the Commission?—A. Well, about five years ago I was residing on Naas River.

Q. Oh, yes; the Naas River—very well, sir?—A. Well, up where the Indians are—some distance up river from where the fishermen are allowed to throw out their nets, there is any quantity of fish, both spring salmon, silver salmon, and cohoes. The cohoes only run late in the fall—the Indians put out seines in the river and in the small rivers that flow into it.

Q. It is Naas River you are speaking of more particularly?—A. Yes; there are three canneries there now. Fish is very scarce, and fifty or eighty miles up the Indians put seines across the streams and catch any quantity of fish and destroy large numbers of them.

Q. Then this seine fishing by Indians is beyond where the ordinary drift nets are used?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You have been on the river?—A. Oh, yes.

Q. You know where the boundary for fishing there is?—A. Yes.

Q. About sixteen or twenty miles beyond the British Columbia cannery?—A. Yes.

Q. And this fishing is beyond that?—A. Yes; the Indians catch them to extremes—more than they do for food.

Q. How far up from the British Columbia cannery; have you ever been on the lakes on Naas River?—A. Oh, yes; the lakes are up 40 or 50 miles from the river, and spring salmon run from the lakes into the river.

Q. Yes; and small tributaries as well running into the lake?—A. Yes.

Q. And is fishing carried on at the lake?—A. No; right in the rivers and at mouths of rivers running in.

Q. And is it late; do the fish come up to spawn?—A. Yes.

Q. And they are fished by the Indians; drift nets or seines?—A. They just put them across the streams and haul them in in hundreds at a time; I would say that after that I resided at the Forks of the Skeena.

Q. Well, before we leave the Naas River—so the Indians catch these fish by hauling their seines across the stream?—A. Yes.

Q. And do they catch more than they want for individual use?—A. Yes.

Q. What do they do with them?—A. Well, when they catch them they clean them and dry them for their own use.

Q. Do they take any down to the canneries?—A. No; only for their own use. They catch perhaps 1,000 in a day; they clean as many as they can and the rest of course they lay there and rot.

Q. And would they be mostly silver salmon or sockeye?—A. Both the silver and the sockeye.

Q. And which do the Indians prefer?—A. The sockeye.

Q. And do they take the spring salmon?—A. Yes; they take them down to the canneries.

Q. And not sockeyes to the canneries?—A. No; not to my knowledge.

Q. They send spring salmon down to the canneries, but sockeye they keep for their own use?—A. Yes.

Q. What number of streams you think run into Naas River above the limit for fishing and the lake?—A. There are numerous streams.

Q. And Indians are engaged fishing in them?—A. Well, there are three streams about 60 miles above the cannery, and it is there the Indians catch the fish.

Q. Can you form an estimate of the average weight and size of these spring salmon they catch?—A. About 35 pounds.

Q. How large have you seen them; the largest for instance?—A. The largest I have seen I think weighed 78 pounds.

Q. Indeed? An enormous fish. Would these fish be white-meated or red?—A. Red.

Q. Have you known of any being white-meated?—A. Yes.

Q. What proportion?—A. About equal.

Q. Which is considered the best?—A. Well, the cannerymen say they can both kinds and they say they find a better market for white than red.

Q. Have you ever travelled up any of these small streams yourself? Any distance from the main river?—A. Well, I have not followed them any distance from the main river right along, but I have gone up Naas River and then gone over the mountains for about 180 miles.

Q. Would these streams be large?—A. Yes; a pretty good size.

Q. And all frequented by salmon?—A. Yes; salmon all up the streams.

Q. May I ask your calling up there?—A. Well, at the time I walked over I was trading at the Skeena.

Q. Do these last remarks you made apply to Naas or Skeena?—A. Well, these streams from the lakes flow into Naas River.

Q. And now you are referring to the Skeena?—A. Yes.

Q. Well, what about the Skeena?—A. Well, I was residing on the Forks of the Skeena trading among the Indians and some distance from the Forks there is a river called Kiashbiash.

Q. Is that near Babine Lake?—A. No, I think Babine Lake is about 50 miles beyond.

Q. And you are now speaking of the limit between Babine Lake and tidal water?—A. Yes. Well, you see the Babine Lake is between the Skeena River and Ablogate River, and I am speaking of below this. At Kiashbiash River there is a large Indian

village there, and all the Indians put out traps—I have seen fifty or sixty traps there. They have piles across the river and they just let a basket down and they catch any quantity of fish.

Q. Would these be spring salmon?—A. No, the silver salmon or sockeye.

Q. Not the cohoes?—A. No.

Q. Well?—A. Well, you see having all these traps across the river and catching any quantity of fish there, it makes more limited fish down on the river and where the cannerymen are complaining of scarcity of fish.

Q. Do Indians catch fish in these traps for the canneries?—A. No, just for their own use.

Q. What number of Indians are there?—A. There is a tribe of between 300 and 400 and about forty or fifty are left to catch fish during the summer and the rest go down to fish for the canneries.

Q. Can you form any estimate of what these forty or fifty Indians would catch during the season?—A. No, I could not say, but of course it is a great many.

Q. And all are dried?—A. Yes.

Q. And those are principally silver salmon or sockeye?—A. Yes.

Q. Then there are lots caught with seine below the town of Hazelton? Are these traps above or below Hazelton?—A. About seven miles above—on the Kiashbiash River.

Q. The Indians would want to catch them for their own food?—A. Yes.

Q. Are salmon less plenty in the Skeena than formerly?—A. Well, I could not say—only what cannerymen say—and fish do not seem to be running as plentifully as they used to do.

Q. Would you say that was because canneries catch so many or because of the great catch by the Indians?—A. Well, I think if there was some one there to see these Indian let many of them go it would be better.

Q. And do they catch more than they really want—they seldom do so?—A. Oh, yes; they catch more than they want—last summer on the Kiashbiash River I saw any quantity of fish lying dead—the Indians get them and take the roe out of them and leave the bodies lying there.

Q. And that would be well on in the spawning season?—A. Yes.

Q. And they dry the roe for their own use?—A. Yes, they dry the roe.

Q. Do you know anything about the young salmon—their natural history, etc.?—

A. No, but I might say there are quite a number of lakes around Hazelton and they are full of fish.

Q. Do you know if these Indians catch the young fish by traps or otherwise?—A. No, but they go out in winter and cut holes through the ice and bring them into Hazelton.

Q. What size would they be?—A. I have seen baskets weighing two and three pounds—the average would be about two and half.

Q. And could you say they were salmon?—A. No, I could not say so.

Q. It is not likely they would be salmon, because they would be either very little or would be bigger?—A. I may say last summer I was on the river and found an Indian village and traps across and great quantities of them lying around.

Q. And that was the system, you think, of the Indians from time immemorial before the canneries could be established?—A. Yes.

Q. And now do you think the habit of Indians catching fish from time immemorial would effect the run of fish in the river? They always get plenty of food?—A. Oh, yes.

Q. And then this reduction must be put to the cannerymen, would it not?—A. Well, of course, there have been more canneries gone up lately.

Q. Yes. I think there are eight canneries on mouth of the Skeena?—A. Yes.

Q. And these eight canneries would take a large amount of fish, and I should think it would be that they would effect the fish more than the quantity caught by the Indians—don't you think so?—A. Yes; I would think so.

Q. Because you see the Indians have gone on from time to time, and caught their fish from the main supply, but now the supply is otherwise reduced?—A. Yes.

Q. And the Indians do not take the fish caught up river down to the canneries for sale?—A. No; it is for their own use.

Q. Do Indians, fishing at the canneries, ever take home any salted fish for their domestic use in winter?—A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Because it is stated that the white salmon are given to the Indians for their use—now, could they carry these up to their villages?—A. No, sir. I know last summer, up there, we would go out and the Indians would just put their pole down anywhere and get a salmon.

Q. Then you don't think it probable that the Indians would take them up for their own use?—A. No; though they might use them while at the cannery.

Q. Do the Indians prefer the white salmon?—A. I am sure I could not say.

Q. I suppose you know the white salmon is not quite so marketable as the red?—A. Yes; but we heard last summer from cannerymen they were going to can the white salmon because it is just as good as the red.

Q. You are speaking of spring salmon?—A. Yes.

Q. And they catch them up to seventy and eighty pounds?—A. Yes.

Q. An enormous fish?—A. Yes. Even in winter I know the Indians go out and haul up very big fish.

Q. They would then be very low—they would not be good, I should think?—A. Yes; they are very good.

Q. Are there many white people at Hazelton?—A. Yes; the Hudson Bay Company have quite a store and Mr. Cunningham.

Q. Do the Hudson Bay Company catch many fish there?—A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. The Indians are supposed to catch their own fish?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. You say, Mr. Green, the fish are considerably reduced in Naas River—are they reduced to the same extent in the Skeena?—No. Of course, there are three canneries on Naas River, but the Naas is not so large as the Skeena.

Q. And you think fish are not reduced as much on the Skeena as on the Naas?—A. No.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Yes. You see there are three canneries on Naas, and eight on the Skeena, but the Naas is a much smaller river—would it be half as large as the Skeena?—A. No; not half as large.

Q. I see from a description I have of it, a short distance above the "Windsor" cannery it is three-quarters of a mile wide, and the Naas River at the boundary is only about 1,200 feet wide. Does the Indian fish on Sunday for their own use or do they keep the Sunday?—A. They do on the Naas, but on the Skeena they do not.

Q. But in fishing for the canneries do they care about fishing on Sunday?—A. No, they don't.

Q. There are missionaries there?—A. Yes.

Q. And they are led pretty much by the missionaries are they?—A. Yes.

Q. Do cannerymen fish on Sunday at all?—A. No, I don't think so—the Sunday is kept.

Q. You are the only person we have found who has actually travelled over the ground there, and it is very good information which you have given us. Do you know anything of sea fishing?—A. No sir.

Q. The Indians are not engaged in that—they are always waiting for the salmon?—A. Yes; they wait for the salmon.

Q. Are there missionaries up at the mouth of the river at Hazelton?—A. No, not at Hazelton.

Q. Do Indians stay at the cannery in winter or go up river?—A. There is an Indian village at Mr. Cunningham's cannery, but most of them go to Fort Simpson.

Q. Where is Fort Simpson—how far from the "Windsor" cannery?—A. About fifty miles from Skeena River—they have to go across the gulf to reach it.

Q. I don't think we can ask you anything else—we have got very good information from you and are much obliged to you.

No further evidence being forthcoming the Commission adjourned at 11.20 a.m. to meet again at 3 o'clock p.m., at the same place.

NANAIMO, 10th March, 1892.

Afternoon Session.

The Commission assembled at the City Hall, at 3.45 p.m.

Present :—Mr. S. Wilmot in the Chair ; Mr. Sheriff Armstrong, and Mr. Secretary Winter.

No evidence being forthcoming, the Chairman, at 4.25 p.m., declared the Commission adjourned, to meet again at Vancouver, at 10 a.m., on Saturday, 12th March, 1892.

Vancouver, B.C., March 12th, 1892.

Morning Session.

The Commission was convened in the Court House at 10 a.m.

Present :—Mr. S. Wilmot, in the Chair ; Hon. D. W. Higgins, Mr. Sheriff Armstrong and Mr. Secretary Winter.

The Chairman (after calling the meeting to order, the room being well filled by the public) in declaring this Commission open, said to his brother colleagues and others, I may mention in a hurried manner the object of the Commission so no misunderstanding may arise about it. The object of the Commission is to get all the information possible about the fish and fisheries of British Columbia. Disputes for a long time have existed with canners and others with regard to the Fraser River fisheries particularly, and this has culminated in having a Commission appointed. Mr. Higgins and Mr. Armstrong were appointed on behalf of the province, and I was appointed to sit with them. We have proceeded with business so far with some 8 or 10 days at New Westminster where some 70 witnesses were examined, both canners and fishermen. We then proceeded to Victoria and got information from canners and others on northern rivers, etc., we then adjourned to Nanaimo. Before leaving Victoria, we passed a resolution that we would come to Vancouver—our object in coming here was more particularly with the view of obtaining information about the deep-sea fisheries, which I understand are here engaged into largely. So far, our meetings have been harmonious, particularly at New Westminster and Nanaimo—a little jarring took place at Victoria, and I hope we will get along here harmoniously. We expect to get through here this afternoon or evening, and it is important we get through as soon as possible, as many important questions are pending our decision. We will proceed to take evidence from any one here who chooses to give it. We will particularly like to hear about the halibut and deep sea fisheries and I will now declare this Commission open. (To the Commissioners.) Would it not be better to arrange about our adjournment from here so the public can know of our movements?

Mr. HIGGINS :—Oh, we can sit to-day, and this afternoon, if necessary, can state our further movements.

Mr. WILMOT :—Well, then, will it be understood that we will sit here to-day and adjourn, and when we adjourn from here we will adjourn to New Westminster, with the view of going down the river to inspect it as well as we can at this season of the year. The Commission will endeavour to get some sort of craft and go down and inspect the river on Monday.

Mr. HIGGINS :—Yes, Monday will be the last day I can be here.

Mr. ARMSTRONG :—Yes, that will do.

Mr. R. V. WINCH, a native of Canada, 6 years in British Columbia, a fish merchant, and resident in Vancouver was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, now sir, have you anything to represent to this Commission with regard to the salmon fisheries or other fisheries of British Columbia?—A. Well, with regard to the salmon fishery I only wish to state, with regard to licenses we are not properly supplied with licenses in this city for the fresh fish market—there is a kind of monopoly now as matters stand.

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Mr. Secretary

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Mr. WILMOT:—Perhaps it would be just as well if Mr. Inspector McNabb would state the directions he has just received from Ottawa, on the subject of licenses.

Mr. McNABB handed in a letter, dated 3rd March, 1892, which he had recently received from the department at Ottawa, authorizing him to issue 100 interim licenses, and which was read by the Chairman.

Mr. WILMOT:—As you were speaking about licenses to supply the local trade for the time being, I may state for the information of yourself and others present that during the sittings of the board in New Westminster many enquiries were made in regard to interim licenses and a suggestion was sent to the minister that interim licenses might be issued in the meantime to those who were fishing for local trade until something definite was decided in regard to standing regulations or any altered ones, and that a fee of \$10 should be paid for these licenses and that this fee would go to account for any further license issued afterwards. This is simply to permit the local traders and fishermen to go on with their work now. This does not, I understand, apply to canners who do not fish until later in June or July—I merely state this so all may understand it.

Mr. WINCH:—With regard to the numbers, sir.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. The inference to be drawn is that each *bonâ fide* British subject and fisherman should be entitled to one license, and I presume from the wording of the correspondence on the subject, that freezers and exporters would be entitled to two licenses, so if they want more fish than those two would supply them with, they can buy from regular fishermen—it is put forth, as explained, in order to allow fishermen to go on with their work for local trade and export trade in spring salmon?—A. Well, I think that would cover my ground—you see we have to depend upon the fish dealers in New Westminster to supply the whole trade of the city as well as far east as Winnipeg, and we were entirely in their hands. You see the first of the fish that are caught will certainly be shipped out of the country, and that leaves us with very high prices, and then to take such fish as will not be required for shipment—that is you may say the culled fish, and we can take it or leave it.

Q. And then the best fish are shipped out of the country, and the worst left for local market?—A. Yes, always.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Were there no licenses here at all?—A. None; there has never been any.

Q. What was the reason?—A. Well, the reason was, as far as I could find out from Mr. Mowat, if one license was issued he would have to issue licenses to every fresh fish man in the city and that would use up all the licenses.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. And do I understand you never had one license?—A. Not one—we never had one license.

Mr. WILMOT:—Did you understand how they stood in Victoria?

Mr. HIGGINS:—Well, I thought there was one.

Mr. WILMOT:—Mr. Inspector McNabb, can you give us information—has any licenses been issued in Victoria and Vancouver?

Mr. McNABB:—There were several individual fishermen from Vancouver who had licenses to fish on the Fraser River, but they sold their fish to canners on the Fraser River—they fished on the Fraser River, and I presume had licenses.

Mr. WINCH:—Angus McInnes moved over here—I know one had a saloon here—I was selling about four tons of fresh fish a week and I could not get any.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. It seems very strange that in a large city like this there should be no licenses?—A. It is very serious indeed.

Q. One of the objects of this Commission is to investigate such matters, and you see the recommendation has been made that interim licenses be issued?—A. Well, I had the contract for supplying the Canadian Pacific Railway and the steamers, and they require a large supply before they sail, but we had difficulty in getting fish.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. I think there is no difference of opinion among the Commissioners about the senseless way in which these licenses have been managed, when I see good British subjects coming up in Westminster and stating they could not get a license and yet others got them and sold them?—A. Well, I have three boats tied up, and I can tell you I intended to work them whether I was fined or not.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, but Mr. Winch let me tell you that these interim licenses will not make any difference with any licenses that may come out afterwards, but to make provision for this fish trade, etc., these licenses are issued, and it will not result that if a man has one now he will not necessarily be entitled to another?—A. Will freezers be allowed to increase their number?

Q. Well, that is a matter to be considered again?—A. You see—here I deal in fish and sell it out in pounds. I handle more fresh fish than any man in British Columbia—that is actually in connection with the retail trade in the cities of Victoria, Vancouver and Westminster, I will handle more fish than any other man. I employ seven men here, and they are all married men, and from what I read in the papers, I think I employ as many as the canneries in that regard—then I employ men in the deep-sea fisheries too.

Q. What markets do you sell your deep-sea fish in?—A. Well, I have not sold much fresh salmon except in the immediate city—then we have shipped as far east as Winnipeg and to small towns along the line, but it has been so difficult to get fish that we could not send much to those places.

Q. But you never had any license before?—A. I never had any.

Q. Well, without putting it too low or correspondingly too high, how many licenses would suit your trade?—A. Five would suit for the city trade to give me sufficient quantity of fish for our own use in the city.

Q. Would your own men fish those five licenses?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Because a system has prevailed that persons getting licenses would farm them out, and I think my brother Commissioners are dead against that altogether?

Mr. HIGGINS.—Oh, yes.

Mr. WINCH.—Well, any time I have not my boats at Westminster and the fish do not come in to supply the wants of the people of British Columbia, those licenses can be taken away from me.

Mr. HIGGINS.—That is fair—that is right.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Yes, that is fair, but the system has prevailed and licenses given to parties have got into the canneries' hands and have been farmed out?—A. I don't know anything about the canners, but I wish to get enough licenses to supply my trade.

Q. The whole object of the Commission is to investigate these matters?—A. Well, I started in with the city—I came in just after the fire, and it has been a very difficult thing to get fish to supply the city—you see in the season every boat is turned into the canneries and we cannot get fish for our trade.

Q. Is it spring salmon or sockeye?—A. Spring salmon, people want fresh fish here in season, and as regards the hatchery, why should you hatch only sockeye fish?

Q. Well, when the hatchery was first started it was intended to only hatch the spring salmon or "quinnat," but it would appear that the "quinnat" was not the commercial fish of the Fraser River and the department took the information given them by the canners and others, that the only commercial fish here was the sockeye, and so the department took the sockeye for breeding purposes?—A. Well, I don't use it in my fresh fish trade here.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. What do you think of the "quinnat"?—A. Well, we would want the spring salmon for our trade, and you see that is why we come in contact with the others.

Q. Is it a fine fish?—A. Oh, yes, it is a fine fish.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Are you from the eastern provinces?—A. I am from Ontario—Cobourg.

Q. Then you have no experience of the salmon in the eastern provinces?—A. No, sir, you say licenses should go to only British subjects?

Well, you see there are men working here—seining for black cod-fish—and I take all their fish—and then two other men—I take all their fish, besides other men I have constant in my employ, and then I will have to have other men in Westminster, and you see the quantity of men I will have to have to handle these fish. Now there is another man here who fishes for smelt and herring in winter time, but not in summer time—he is barred from fishing in the river and it comes hard upon them if only British subjects are allowed, but it would be better than to let in the Americans.

Q. But if they have been here long they should be British subjects—you see one great complaint has been made that many outsiders come in and fish?—A. Oh yes, that is right.

Mr. WILMOT.—I may say it is the unanimous opinion of the Commission that none but British subjects should get licenses.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. You catch any other fishes but smelt?—A. Flounders, halibut.

Q. Do you catch any flounders here?—A. Yes, we catch them in boats with seines.

Q. Any halibut?—A. Yes, some in the bay, the large quantities though are caught farther north.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Are you identified with the company that are catching halibut and shipping them east?—A. In a certain way, I bought their fish and shipped them east.

Q. Has it been profitable so far?—A. Well it is this way, we have no markets, we have the fish and means of catching them, but we have no markets—they don't use much halibut in the east.

Q. What do you mean by "east"?—A. Well, in Montreal for instance, a ton of halibut would glut the market, then in Boston and eastern American cities we have the Atlantic halibut there before us. Then, again, we have many disadvantages in the ways of shipping—if we want to send halibut to Chicago it has actually to go round by way of Boston.

Q. And do you have to send halibut to Boston to sell in Chicago?—A. Yes, I believe there is a large company in Boston that control the whole trade.

Q. The British Columbia fishermen are virtually controlled by Boston dealers?—A. Yes, but I think they will make room for us in time, I think we will manage to get a foot-hold soon.

Q. Then the evidence so far is that a fair and large trade can be cultivated with regard to halibut fishing here?—A. Oh, yes; it is sure to come; we need a little protection and sympathy to help us along.

Q. What duty do you pay on halibut going to Boston?—A. One cent a pound.

Q. Has the representation been made that if fish was coming in as American fish they will go in duty free?—A. I have not heard of that.

Q. It is practised in Ontario; fish sent in as American fish go in duty free; a Canadian fisherman will sell his nets nominally to the Americans and then the fish goes in as American fish?—A. Yes; well, I think before the next November or December comes along we will find a great many of the fishermen from the eastern provinces out here catching the fish and sending them to the States, and it will need a good deal of protection; this halibut fishery is just beginning, and it will not do to let it run like the salmon fishery.

Q. Now, you have told us about the halibut; have you shipped any black cod?—A. Well, there are some in the market; we catch the skil; we catch black cod here; it is different to Atlantic cod; it is a different fish from the skil that comes in.

Q. Are they smaller?—A. Oh, the cod-fish we catch up here by hand lines, and it will weigh from 50 to 70 pounds.

Q. And the skil?—A. From four to nine pounds; it is a smaller fish; it has a flat head, very round, and the meat is pure white, very white; I will get some and show you.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Where are they caught?—A. Not here; I cannot give you the proper location, but I believe it is 300 or 400 miles this side of the boundary.

Q. Queen Charlotte Islands?—A. Yes, about there.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Are fish sent over the American boundary?—A. I don't know; I have shipped it to Toronto and Quebec; but they have no skil there; now the fish is well thought of; many of my customers here think a great deal of the fish.

Q. It was represented to us at Nanaimo that cod or skil would not dry as well as the Atlantic fish; they cannot dry them for the foreign market.—A. No; they cannot be dried, but they can be pickled in salt very well.

Q. Then black cod or skil is a much more edible fish than the Atlantic fish?—A. Well, I don't know anything about the Atlantic fisheries; only I know they are selling just as well as Georgia-boned cod-fish.

Q. Then the ling; the ling is what you call your cod here?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You see these local names confuse them as to market values, etc.; you have skil, black cod and ling; are they distinct kinds of fish?—A. Well, I think ling and black cod fish are same kinds of fish. Mr. Ladner, do you know anything about it?

Mr. WILMOT.—Mr. Inspector McNabb might know something about it.

Mr. McNABB.—The true cod does not exist in British Columbia waters, but the ling are very much like the Atlantic ling.

Mr. WILMOT.—But the Atlantic ling are quite distinct from the Atlantic cod.

Mr. McNABB.—Oh, yes; quite distinct and the cod are quite different to the ling.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, the object of asking these questions is to get information about these fish.—A. Well, the ling and the cod-fish are one and the same fish as far as I can find out from all fishermen.

Mr. McNABB.—Oh no; if you see a ling and a cod fish alongside of each other you would see the difference—the fins, etc., are quite different.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. The ling with us are more of the style of an eel—they have a continuous row of fins right to the tail?—A. Well, that is the kind we catch here.

Q. And the codfish—has not that continuous kind of fin?—A. I have not handled any of them like that.

Q. And you think it is not advisable that licenses should be made transferable at all?—A. No sir; I would not think so.

Q. You asked the reason some little time ago why sockeye was bred at the hatchery instead of "quinnat"—can you give us any information from your own knowledge as to the benefit derived from the hatchery?—A. No; none at all.

Q. You say men who fish with you fish with seines?—A. Yes; right out in the harbour—there are some of the fishermen here who will give evidence that they fish with the seine.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. We are much obliged to you for the information you have given us.—A. With regard to the quantities of licenses—two licenses will be of very little benefit.

Q. But, they will be better than none—will they not?—A. Yes sir; but if any considerable time between now and when the licenses would be issued it will be of very little benefit.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. You can purchase from others who have them?—A. No, that would not do either—oh, you mean to buy fish from them?

Mr. WILMOT.—Yes; it is just for the present—it may be a few days or a month before the others are issued.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I wish a subpoena issued for Mr. Allan, a hotel-keeper here—I wish to find out about the licenses he had.

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh, yes.

The secretary was then directed to make out a subpoena calling upon Mr. Allan to be present before the Commission at 2 p.m.

JOHN KELLY, a native of Newfoundland,—for two years in British Columbia, describing himself as of no particular occupation, though bred a fisherman, a resident of Vancouver, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well sir, what have you got to say—what do you come before this Commission for?—A. Well sir, I will tell you the truth—I am on my oath. I have been handled very badly since I came here—we bought twine and made nets—we bought enough to run nets out to the lighthouse there and we have never wet it yet—we spent all the money we had and are now nearly done up.

Q. How are you done up?—A. Well, I had to get a house and the wind blows into it in the fall and the boys are working at it there—I have three sons of my own.

Q. But why could you not use this twine?—A. I could not get a license.

Q. Why?—A. The cannerymen had them all—they had all the licenses.

Q. Then do I understand you there was no licenses because all were taken up?—

A. There were no licenses for me—I could not get employed at all.

Q. Then you could not get a license and you feel aggrieved at that?—A. Yes; I could not get one nor my boys either.

Q. Anything else?—A. Well, there was a cousin of mine came here and he brought his twine with him and he left too; he could not use them; he could not get license. It ruined him anyway.

Q. Do you know of other persons getting licenses since you applied?—A. I don't know of anything except myself.

Q. Did you tender money, too?—A. Yes; one year it was \$5, and last year it was \$20.

Q. Were you willing to pay \$20?—A. Yes; I know nothing else to do, except work on the water.

Q. Have you anything else to say?—A. No; sir.

Q. And in Nova Scotia, did you fish there?—A. No; not Nova Scotia. I don't belong to Nova Scotia. I come from a better country than Nova Scotia. (Laughter.) I come from Newfoundland.

Q. And don't you think this a better country?—A. No; I don't. My friends have gone back.

Q. And what kind of fish did you fish in Newfoundland?—A. Well, all kinds, sir.

Q. And what kinds do you fish for?—A. Oh, well I fished for soles and bad heads and all sorts.

Q. Well, you might fish for soles here?—A. Well, perhaps so.

Q. You would not want a license to fish for soles here; what others did you get?—

A. Oh, capelin and cod and all kinds. Now, I am able to tell you just what you asked this man who was here.

Q. You think the cod the same as you catch in Newfoundland?—A. Yes; just the same. Then at home we catch black cod, but here the oil is in the liver.

Q. You have seen the cod that is caught here?—A. I have seen almost all of them. I have caught capelin, that is bait for the fish.

Q. Well, then, you think the cod is the same here, except one has oil in its body while the other has oil in its liver?—A. Yes, sir; that is straight.

Q. And what do you think of ling?—A. Well, I have not caught many of them. I am a stranger out here, but after a while I will catch all of them.

Q. Have you caught halibut?—A. No, sir. I have caught them on the banks.

Q. Then you think the main grievance is that you have come here and you cannot fish?—A. Yes, sir; and would you not think it a grievance after coming here and buying a house and fetching twine here, etc.?

Q. Well, sir, I hope you can do better?—A. And all my boys too, sir. I tell you gentlemen it is a shame; here are Italians and Chinese and all sorts at work fishing, and good Englishmen and British subjects on their own soil cannot get a license; that is what England does everywhere: she gets new countries for people to go to after hard fighting and work, and then very fine Englishmen and Irishmen go around and cannot get anything to do. Is that right, sir; is that the proper thing in our own country? (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN.—Order, order, please.

Q. Then you think Italians and others are not as good as Englishmen?—A. (emphatically) No, sir; I know they are not. I have been in their countries; I know them; many a blow have I put over their heads. (Laughter.) Oh, I have been among them; why in Sicily once two of us licked about a dozen of them; pshaw, a good sturdy Englishman or Irishman is worth a half a dozen of them any day. (Laughter.)

Q. Who did you apply to for license?—A. Mr. Oppenheimer was one; then the inspector. He told me there was no licenses—the cannerymen had them all.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. What did he tell you?—A. Oh, one thing and another; but he didn't ask me questions like this gentleman has been doing, like a gentleman should. I understood the canneries had them all.

Q. But you would be interested to know that the records don't show that cannerymen got all?—A. Well, I don't know. We want to get licenses, if possible, and if we get them the money won't go home to Italy, or it won't go to China either, as such a lot of it does now to the shame and disgrace of the country, while our own people can do nothing. —I do hope you gentlemen will remedy the matter. I have three boys, and we are all fishermen and have our twine, etc., and we are not fitted for much of any other calling. It is really very hard that we cannot get licenses.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, sir, your complaint is recorded. That will do.

A. W. WRIGHT, a native of Canada, six years in British Columbia, a fish-dealer, and resident of Vancouver, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Now, Mr. Wright, will you submit your views or complaints to the Commission—whatever you may have to say?—A. Well, the first subject I would like to mention is that I represent the British Columbia Fishing and Trading Company, of Vancouver, as secretary-treasurer.

Q. Well, sir?—A. The first thing I would like to mention are licenses. Last year we applied for licenses, but we were not furnished. This year we applied for ten licenses. We have large orders for salmon from eastern Canada and the United States, and we are not able to fill them.

Q. For what reason?—A. Well, no licenses are issued yet.

Q. And you cannot supply your customers for want of licenses, is that it, sir?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you been engaged in work before last year?—A. This company has been organized about six months, and Fader Brothers carried on the business before that. I am only speaking of my business for this year—practically the same company applied for licenses last year. If any provision can be made in the meantime, the same as for Mr. Winch, I would very much like to have it done.

Q. Well, I simply read the letter from the department to the inspector authorizing him to issue interim licenses.—A. Of course, shipping in car-loads as we do, two licenses would be of very little use to us.

Q. It is a question if you want licenses at all for halibut?—A. Yes; but I am speaking of salmon. These men won't carry up two or three salmon, and it would be very difficult to gather fish up.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. But if fishermen got licenses, could you not get fish from them?—A. Well, but then we are at a disadvantage when Mr. Winch and Mr. Port get licenses.

Q. Oh, but you are not—they have no licenses now.

Mr. WILMOT.—No. You are all on the same footing for this year.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Did Fader Brothers have licenses last year?—A. They never had licenses.

Q. Were there ever any licenses issued for Vancouver?—A. No; not at all. There has never been any that I know of.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Have you any knowledge of this halibut trade?—A. Yes, I have.

Q. Is this company identified with catching the fish lately and shipping them?—

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Has your success in catching them been very satisfactory?—Yes, the halibut is very plenty.

Q. And do they take in eastern markets as well as the eastern halibut?—A. Yes, our representative, Mr. Grant, who has just returned, tells us they take better in some places than eastern halibut—the trouble is chiefly that we cannot get express service.

Q. Have the profits been remunerative?—A. Oh, yes.

Q. And then it looks to become a very profitable business?—A. Yes.

Q. And if you can do business with Chicago and other western cities it will be still more remunerative?—A. Yes, we propose establishing an agency at Winnipeg,

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. If you cannot get a license would it be remunerative?—A. Well, if there were no licenses given there would be no salmon caught I suppose.

Q. You speak of salmon?—A. Yes.

Q. And you would have to buy from others?—A. Yes, some one would have to have licenses.

Q. And if you had to buy them it would place you at a serious disadvantage would it not?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are these halibut caught out far from the coast? These supplies that you have obtained were they out any distance on banks?—A. No, sir; I have been up several times to the fishing grounds—we find during the summer season halibut come down very close, and as soon as the cold season comes they go up north almost to the Alaskan Boundary—you will find them there very plentiful.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. You have our Canadian fish at the Boundary then?—A. Well, they are certainly very loyal—they wait for us to catch them. (Laughter.)

Q. And would the fishing be outside—off some distance from the coast?—A. Well, no; our fishing is mostly within the three mile limit.

Q. My object in asking you this is to find out where fishing is done, because I do not think it is necessary for you to get a license for deep-sea fishing, though I am not quite prepared to say exactly—I think in the inlets and bays licenses are necessary, but not in outside waters?—A. There is one matter I would like to say. We used a beam trawl like what is used off the English coast and in trawling off the coast here for halibut or any fish we may take in, we may take young salmon. Well, how would that effect us—we don't need a license for it but if we take salmon?

Q. Do you use a long beam trawl?—A. Yes, about 40 feet.

Q. It sweeps along the bottom and takes in everything?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. The opinion is in England and other countries that this trawl is very destructive because it takes in everything along the bottom and destroys vast quantities of young and immature fish?—A. Well, it is not necessary to kill the small fish—the fish all come up alive that I have noticed in the net, and the small ones not used for commercial purposes are thrown overboard.

Q. Well, that is at present, no doubt, because the commercial needs for fish are somewhat limited?—A. Well, perhaps—we use the same trawl.

Q. What size of meshes in the bag?—A. The meshes decrease towards the bag. I think they would be $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches extension. $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch square.

Q. Well, now, what sort of fish do you catch in this trawl?—A. Well, soles, and flounders, and halibut.

Q. Have you soles here, the true sole?—A. Yes, sir; we have got brill, too.

Q. Do you catch soles with the others?—A. Yes; brill is caught occasionally with halibut and flounders, dog-fish, etc.

Q. What is the average size of soles you catch?—A. Well, from 4 inches long to about 8 inches.

Q. They are pretty broad, are they not?—A. Yes, sir; they are rather broader than long.

Q. And brill?—A. They are larger again; 14 to 16 inches long.

Q. And cod are larger yet?—A. Yes.

Q. And salmon, what size would you catch?—A. Oh, any salmon that might be in the water.

Q. Adult fish or would they be young?—A. Oh, no; adult fish.

Q. Any herring?—A. No.

Q. Flounders?—A. About 12 to 14 inches long.

Q. My desire in asking you is that there is a desire on the part of the Government to protect the young fish so they may grow to marketable size and be useful. And where are these shipped to?—A. To the North-west and other places.

Q. Then you are one who does not think Canada is a foreign country?—A. Oh, no; we have shipped considerable to the United States, Boston and New York. About taking the small fish; I have never seen the small fish; I do not think the breeding grounds are in shore; we have done our fishing in deep waters and I have never seen the young fish in those waters.—A. No; the breeding grounds are in rivers and apparently they do not stay in those waters.

Q. No; but you see there would be small brill and soles and flounders, etc., in the neighbourhood of where you catch the big ones?—A. No; not necessarily. Now we never see small halibut. We catch all sizes of big ones, but the breeding grounds seem to be outside.

Q. But would not the little ones be on rough bottom?—A. No; we cannot get fish on rough bottom.

Q. But on a gravelly bottom with stones like this (ink-bottle), the young of flounders will run right into the gravel and soon be out of the way?—A. Well, a trawl would take a stone like that in. We fish on sandy bottom and have never seen small ones.

Q. Then you think the halibut fishery will become very important to British Columbia?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What size of sole did you say you take?—A. Well, about 10 inches. We hardly think it right that we should not have any licenses in Vancouver. New Westminster seems to get the whole of them.

Q. The trouble lies here, with a large number of canning establishments and then parties like yourself all getting licenses, query: would it not be too many for the river? The trouble is to fix it so the river will not be over-fished.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Do you not think that would arrange itself?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, yes; it might be a "survival of the fittest."

Mr. WRIGHT.—Well, we think we should be encouraged; we have invested a large amount of money in the business.

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh, yes; I merely throw this out to see if you think it can be overdone; you see if there are so many getting licenses here and so many in Westminster, and so many canning establishments all getting licenses, it might over-fish the river; the object is not to do this if possible.

Mr. HIGGINS.—But would people catch fish if they could not sell them?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, we have found that great quantities were caught and then thrown away.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes; but I think it would fix itself; it is debarring people from getting licenses that gives all the trouble.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Have you anything else, sir, you wish to say?—A. No, sir.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—We are much obliged to you, sir, for your information; it has been very interesting.

JOHN INGLEHART, a native of Quebec, four years in British Columbia, a fisherman, and resident of Vancouver, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, sir, what have you to represent?—A. Well, I heard that last man say they were not able to buy fish from the fishermen; I fished last fall; I got a license and I came last fall to sell my fish, but they would not buy my fish; I saw lots of Indians there selling fish and I could not sell my fish, but had to go around town and sell them as best I could.

Q. Well, where were the supply of fish these people obtained; where did they get them?—A. Well, I think they got them from Indians; I see lots of Indians come here and they have no licenses and they sell their fish.

Q. And you think if Indians sold fish without licenses you labour under disadvantages?—A. Yes.

Q. What net do you fish with?—A. I fish with sockeye net, a drift net.

Q. Where do you fish?—A. Right around here in the harbour.

Q. What do you catch principally?—A. Sockeye and dog-fish sometimes.

Q. And cod-fish?—A. I only caught two cod-fish in my net.

Q. And spring salmon?—A. No; not here.

Q. Where do you catch those?—A. I catch some spring salmon in the Fraser River; I had a license for there, too.

Q. Are sockeye numerous here; do you catch them in any numbers here?—A. Well, I was not fishing much here; I fished in the Fraser River and afterwards came here.

Q. And you complain that other persons who did not take licenses had the advantage of you in selling fish to this market, or to the persons here?—A. Yes; I wrote myself to Mr. Mowat to come and stop that, as we were not allowed to sell our fish; it was a shame to rob the Government in that way.

Q. You wrote to have people stopped who were fishing without a license?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you have license last year?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You have had licenses since you were in this country?—A. The first year I fished for Mr. Munn; he was in Westminster; I went to Mr. Mowat, but he says, "all the licenses are given away." "Well," I says, "I must have one, I am still a fisherman; I commenced to fish when ten years old." I wrote to Ottawa about it, but it was too late, and he told me to go to Mr. Mowat, and next year I had a license.

Q. What year was that?—A. The year before last; I fished for Mr. Ewen.

Q. What was the quantity of sockeye you caught last year and the year before?—

A. Last year I caught about 4,000.

Q. And what did you get for them?—A. Ten cents a piece.

Q. And what was the usual weight?—A. The sockeye about 4, 5 and 6 pounds.

Q. Did you ever catch any as high as 8 or 9 pounds?—A. Well, I never remember I never weighed them either.

Q. Do they make any difference in the weight of fish in buying them?—A. No, suppose it is 20 pounds, you would get just the same.

Q. What part of the river did you fish in?—A. Oh, all along the river, in spring 4 miles below Westminster, and when sockeye came in, I went to fish at the mouth of the river.

Q. On the sand banks?—A. Yes sir.

Q. And are the boats very numerous?—A. Yes, and I will tell you something, I swore to tell the truth, I was here 3 years ago, and I fished for Mr. Munn, and every one had a license, and they set their nets right on top of us, there was 200 and 300 fathoms of net.

Q. And then the 150 fathoms was not stuck to?—A. Well, I don't know, the law was not in force for that then.

Q. Do you think it injurious to have a continuous string of nets running down there?—A. Well, I don't know.

Q. Have you any nets there with wings?—A. Well, I think 150 fathoms net is long enough.

Q. What meshes deep are they?—A. 45 at the mouth of the river and 35 and 30.

Q. Have they ever been troubled with offal in the river much?—A. Well, yes, last year I went down from Mr. Ewen's cannery, and the first time there was an Italian, he put his net about 20 yards from me, I saw nothing at all that time, then when I went down to lower end of my drift I hauled up my net and he came behind me and I set my net across and he came again and he put his net about 40 yards from me, and I said that is not the way to fish, you break the Government's law.

Q. Oh yes, you mean to say the nets are too close together, but do you ever get offal in your net?—A. Yes, I got 5 or 6 last year, only 5 or 6 heads.

Q. What effect on the river has the offal?—A. Oh, I don't think it hurts it much.

Q. What effect in creating sickness on the river?—A. Oh, I was there for years and I drank the water.

Q. And did it affect you at all?—A. No, sir.

Q. What about the close season on that river, I mean from 6 o'clock Saturday night to 6 o'clock Sunday evening, do you think the whole of Sunday should be kept as against fishing or not?—A. Well, I don't know.

Q. Do you fish on Sunday yourself?—A. No, I never do that, even when I might fish, I never worked on Sunday since I commenced.

Q. And a man who fishes on Sunday and you don't, has he any advantage over you?—A. Well, I never see any fishing until 6 o'clock Sunday evening.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well, thank you sir, that will do.

Dr. Duncan Bell-Irving, M.D., a native of Scotland, a resident and practising physician in Vancouver since 1883, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Now, sir, have you anything to present to this Commission?—A. Well, I was asked to state what I knew about the typhoid fever on Lulu Island and Sea Island. I have treated a large number of cases since my arrival here, especially in the last year, but there have been always cases there. I have noticed that out-breaks on the Delta land are the same as we have here in Vancouver, the same causes that produce it here produce it down there, and from observations I have made I have come to the conclusion that the water of the Fraser River has not so much to do with it as the surface water they use and the general state of farm buildings, etc. I have frequently noticed the well will be in the front yard and the privy and cess-pool not 20 or 30 yards away and as the water rises with the rise and fall of the tide, it really don't make much difference whether they take the water out of the well or from the cess-pool.

Q. Then they are not persons of taste? (Laughter.)—A. Well, I would not say the water would not taste better, but it requires such a small quantity of the poison to cause the fever that it would not make much difference. I have noticed also that the

outbreaks of fever seldom correspond with the salmon fishing time; there has really been more sickness there after the fishing is done in October and December, and the last case I treated there was just before Christmas time, and I cannot conceive that the offal has had any effect in bringing about this late case. We had precisely the same experience in Vancouver here, before the water works started it was all over the city, but since then it is confined to the outskirts of the city where the water is confined to wells and cess-pools, and I think it would be better to drink water from the river than from the surface cess-pools and wells. I have frequently told the farmers down there that they should not drink the surface water and they should have tanks. It is the same way in all flat lands—if you cannot get wells below the surface it would be better to use the rain water kept in tanks. Then the numerous numbers of dead salmon I have seen on the banks up the river will do much more harm than the offal that is dumped into the fresh water, because the sun and heat has undoubtedly something to do with the formation of this poison.

Q. Have you anything further to submit?—A. I think that is all.

Q. Then your general impression is to say the offal is not injurious?—A. I would not say it improves the water, but I don't think it causes sickness.

Q. You have been treating patients in Lulu Island and Sea Island, when was the principal time?—A. I would think in November and December, but there are cases all the year round.

Q. Would decomposing vegetable matter be as injurious as animal matter?—A. Oh, yes; but it takes a long time.

Q. The fishing goes on in July, does it not?—A. Yes.

Q. And the offal is thrown in; how long would it take to decompose?—A. Oh, but a few days.

Q. And fishing ends about the end of August?—A. I don't know about that.

Q. If this offal lodges in bays and sloughs would it not decompose there?—A. Undoubtedly it would.

Q. Would it not throw off deleterious matter?—A. Oh, yes it would.

Q. And you think that has no effect upon health?—A. I am not prepared to say it has, but I think if not a bit of salmon were thrown into the Fraser River—I think the people would be just as bad because it is almost impossible to get good water there.

Q. How long have you been practising there?—A. I came to the country in 1883, and have been practising on and off since then.

Q. And you have had many cases of typhoid fever?—A. Yes; many of them; more last year; in fact some of them are not over yet.

Q. And you think drinking water from the river would be better?—A. Yes; I think it would be much better. I think the sewage and matter from these cess-pools is really the cause of the typhoid fever.

Q. And it is not added to by the offal that is thrown in?—A. I think it would be just as bad if no salmon were thrown in at all.

Q. I suppose you know the old adage, "that doctors differ and patients die?"—A. Yes, I know.

Q. And suppose other doctors gave a different opinion?—A. Well, it would not alter my opinion.

Q. And you think taking water from the deeper portion of the river would be better than from shallow waters?—A. Yes.

Q. And if this deep water is impregnated with poisons, would it not be bad?—A. Yes; I would not care to drink it myself; I told these people time and time again that they will have to make tanks and collect rain water from their sheds.

Q. Some of the doctors say put a little whiskey in it; do you think the same?—A. Well, it would take a great deal of whiskey to put in it. There is nothing peculiar about this; I have seen the same thing in many flat countries; I have been in Demarara and Holland, and it is all the same, and there are no salmon there.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. You say you would think the water would be better to drink than the surface water?—A. Yes; I would rather drink it but not from sloughs.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Then you think offal has an effect on the water of the river?—A. Well, I consider the dead fish much worse.

Q. But you say fresh offal thrown in would decompose in a day or two?—A. Yes; but the body of water is so great.

Q. But these dead fish up river would not effect it by floating up there and not down below?—A. Well, perhaps; what I said was that offal dumped in the water would not be as bad as dead fish decaying and floating down in such great numbers.

Q. But if offal is added to those dead fish, would it not make it worse?—A. Well,—

Q. Does the use of foul waters produce dysentery?—A. Oh, there is no doubt of that.

Q. Then if persons have dysentery in that neighbourhood would you say it was brought about by foul water?—A. Well, I would say it was one of the commonest causes for dysentery; but I have examined the water from many of the wells on the island and "impure" is no word for it.

Q. And are we to infer that they prefer drinking that water there, whereas the water along the shore of the river is better?—A. Well, they cannot get any other kind; they live some little way from the shores, but it is not peculiar to Lulu Island; it is the same up here.

Q. But would this impure water permeate through the soils?—A. Yes; I have no doubt it would.

Q. Then the wells would be impregnated from these impurities?—A. Yes; there is no doubt it would; these impurities from the sub-soils filter through.

Q. You see, Dr. Bell-Irving, that when residents of a community petition against this matter it is the duty of the Government to find out all about the causes of these sicknesses.—A. Yes; but I do not think it is the offal; if a net was stretched across the Fraser River and all the fish caught in it dumped there, I do not think it would be any worse. This is no opinion got up for the occasion; I have held these views for a long time. I believe typhoid fever there is produced from the same causes as in Vancouver and all other parts of the world, viz.: sewage and cess-pools; they are responsible for nine-tenths of all the typhoid fever the world over.

Mr. WILMOT.—Thank you, sir.

WILLIAM CAMPBELL, a native of Scotland, three years in British Columbia, a fisherman, and resident of Vancouver, was duly sworn.

WITNESS.—Well, I have applied three years now for a license and could not get one.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Licenses to fish where?—A. On the Fraser River.

Q. Was any particular cause given why?—A. Well, they say everybody that went there and put in an application called themselves a fisherman and the licenses were all given out and there was none left for me.

Q. Were you a fisherman in Scotland?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What inducement brought you to this country?—A. Well, I came to this country with the intention of fishing.

Q. Did you come to this immediate neighbourhood for that purpose?—A. Yes sir.

Q. And you found you could not fish without a license?—A. No sir.

Q. And did you fish for other people without a license of your own?—A. Yes, sir; I was fishing for Mr. Munn.

Q. And you think it a hardship as a British subject that you cannot get license to fish?—A. I do.

Q. Do you know of other persons getting licenses after you applied?—A. I could not say—I applied soon enough.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. On what terms did you fish?—A. I was hired by the piece—six and a half cents a fish.

Q. With another man with you?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did he get six and a half cents?—A. No it was six and a half cents for two of us.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Which included boat and net?—A. The boat was our own but not the net.

Q. So for the use of the boat you two men got six and a half cents for the fish?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was that the current price for fish on the river?—A. I think some got eight cents.

Q. Did any get twenty cents?—A. As far as I can understand, some who had licenses of their own got twenty cents.

Q. And you would expect to get more if you had licenses of your own?—A. I would expect to get twenty cents.

Q. Have you made any calculation of the fish you caught?—Yes; last year was a small year and we caught over four thousand fish.

Q. Do you know of more fish being caught than could be well got rid of at the canneries?—A. Well, we skip one or two days when we don't fish at all.

Q. What is the usual size of salmon you catch?—A. From six to eight pounds.

Q. Are you aware of any quantities of fish being thrown away because they cannot be used?—A. Not last year.

Q. Any year?—A. Yes; I think they were the year before.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. But do you see any one throw them away from off wharves or from the camps?—A. Well, I don't see that.

Q. Then you don't know?—A. We can only take what you see yourself.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Do you own your net you fish with?—A. No sir; I got it from the canneries.

Q. Do you own your boat?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What was the boat worth?—A. \$40.

Q. Did you build it yourself?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did the cannery charge you anything for lending you the net?—A. Well, that was according to the price I got for the fish.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Then if you owned the net you would get more for your fish?—A. Yes.

Q. What is the price of a net?—A. Well, I think we could get one like we fished with for \$100.

Q. Where did you fish?—A. At Sea Island.

Q. And were the boats wide apart?—A. Well, I think there were enough boats fishing there last year.

Q. Was any restriction made to leave a certain portion of the river open or was it fished all over?—A. It was fished all over as far as I could see.

Q. What is your idea of the effect of offal thrown in the river?—A. Well, I don't know that it made any difference to the fish.

Q. Any to your nets?—A. It does, I believe—the oil gets on and rots them.

Q. What effect has it on the human family in drinking water?—A. Well, I think it is not very good, and I hear everybody complain.

Q. Do you drink it yourself?—A. Yes, but not if I can get anything else.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Do you feel any effects from it?—A. No.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Did you filter the water or take it from the river?—A. We drink it from the river.

Q. Do you get from above the cannery or below?—A. From above.

Q. Why?—A. Because it is better water.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Do you think decayed fish is worse than offal?—A. Well, I think fish thrown in would rot about the same.

Q. I mean the dead fish that float down?—A. Oh, I think they would be about the same.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. The dead fish that you see—do you think they were thrown in from the canneries or came down from the upper waters?—A. I thought they were fish that fell out of the nets.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Don't you think that the dead fish would not hold together to come down the river? We have evidence that live fish hardly hold together to go up?—A. No, I think they would hardly hold together to come down.

Q. Have you ever got any offal in your nets?—A. Yes, quite a few.

Q. What do you mean by a "few"?—A. Four or five in an hour.

Q. What do you do with them?—A. Oh, we take them out.

Q. And the only effect it has is to rot the nets?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Have you seen any offal along the sloughs and banks?—A. No, I think everything that goes in is taken right out.

Q. Any in the sloughs or bays?—A. No, I have never seen any.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Have you seen the Sand Heads bare?—A. Yes.

Q. Any offal there?—A. I have never seen any.

Q. Have you been out in Oulachan run?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you seen them in any large quantities under the canneries?—A. No, I cannot say I have seen them.

Q. Do you know of any coming to this country like yourself with intentions to fish?—A. Yes, I know of four others but they have gone back home.

Q. Because they could not get licenses to fish?—A. Yes.

Q. If they had got licenses would they remain do you think?—A. Yes, I think they would.

Q. Then not getting licenses has prevented settlers from coming here?—A. Yes, I think it has for fishermen.

Q. What is the occupation of persons who have licenses in the other part of the year?—A. He could pursue his fishing in some other way—he could go halibut fishing, or seining, or some other way.

Mr. WILMOT.—Thank you, sir.

The Commission adjourned at 12.30 P.M., to meet again at 2 P.M., at the same place.

VANCOUVER, March 12th, 1892.

Afternoon Session.

The Commission was convened at 2 p.m., in the Court House.

Present:—Mr. S. Wilmot in the Chair; Mr. Sheriff Armstrong and Hon. D. W. Higgins, with Mr. Secretary Winter.

Mr. NICHOL ALLEN, a native of Scotland, nine years in British Columbia, a resident, and hotel-keeper in Vancouver, was duly sworn.

Mr. WILMOT.—What have you to lay before the Commission?

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Are you engaged in fishing?—A. I have a license for fishing, I have had it for two years.

Q. To fish where?—A. On the Fraser River.

Q. Did you ever live on the Fraser River?—A. No.

Q. Did you ever follow fishing for a livelihood?—A. No, my intention was to follow it at the fall and I wanted to get two licenses, one for my son and one for myself. I wanted to go into the curing trade.

Q. Did your son fish?—A. No, he did not fish.

Q. Who supplied you with license?—A. I had it from Mr. Mowat.

Q. What did you tell Mr. Mowat when you went for a license?—A. Oh, I did not tell him anything. I wrote the Minister of Fisheries at Ottawa.

Q. Did you get a reply?—A. They told me they had referred it to their agent at New Westminster.

Q. Afterwards you got a license?—A. Yes.

Q. What did you pay for it?—A. \$5.

Q. What did you do with it?—A. I paid two men to fish, and arranged with Mr. Todd to take the fish I would give him, and those he would not take I carted them into town and sold them.

Q. You hired two men to fish for you?—A. Yes, I gave them a percentage, I gave them one-third each, then I had a horse and cart and carted them into town.

Q. But that was two years ago?—A. Yes.

Q. And you paid them one-third each to manage matters, what would that be?—

A. About \$150 each, I could not exactly tell, that was two years ago.

Q. How did you get a license for the second year?—A. I applied for it, I sent my application to Mr. Mowat and employed two men for the year and they made about the same, the cannerymen pay them, that is one-third of the fish each and I take the balance for my net and license.

Q. And that gave you how much each year?—A. Oh, I had not much last year? I made a little before last year.

Q. Did you make \$300 last year?—A. Oh no, not near that.

Q. After all expenses were paid?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—You count your boat and net as expenses?—A. Oh, yes, each year that came out of the third, (the one-third.)

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. You had to supply everything?—A. Everything but the labour.

Q. You went on shares, each got one-third?—A. Yes, I had to keep up the plant in full and paid for the license.

Q. Have you applied for this year?—A. I have not yet but I expect to apply and I intend to apply for two licenses as I wish to go into the trade more fully.

Q. You are very modest, I don't think you should get any.—A. I think we should get a renewal.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Have you any idea of the probable number of fish you divided the year before last?—A. About 8,000.

Q. And last year?—A. I think they would average about 4,000—it was a small year.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Yet you did better than the year before?—A. It was on better prices.

Q. You got 15 cents last year?—A. No; last year I didn't get so much. I don't remember exactly. I got 4,300 fish or something like that.

Q. The first year you got 15 cents?—A. I only averaged about 9 cents the first year.

Q. A pretty good investment, don't you think, to put in \$5 and take out what you did?—A. Oh, well, I put in more than that—\$20 last year. I don't think the investment is so very great. You want a new net every year, and really there is not a great deal in it.

Q. But there is so much in it you are going to apply for two?—A. But if I had two, I could give it more attention than if I had one.

Q. Did you sell the year before on the market or sell to the cannery?—A. I sold to a cannery—the Lulu Island Canning Company. Of course, it was the first year they started, and they wanted to get all the fish they could. Last year, Mr. Todd took all.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. You are not a practical fisherman yourself?—A. No ; I am not a practical fisherman or dealer in fish.

Q. Very well, sir ; that is all.

Captain GEORGE, a native chinook Indian, of Harrison River, was duly sworn. Being unable to speak much English, the questions put to him and his answers were interpreted by Mr. P. Tiernan, Indian agent.

Mr. TIERNAN.—I may say, before he commences, that fifty Indians came to me and wanted to come here before you, but I thought one would be enough to tell you all—he is a fisherman and farmer.

THE INTERPRETER.—He says that himself and others are not pleased at all.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What at?—A. He says that the whole of the Indians only get forty licenses, and that they are very much displeased at the number they get.

Q. What is the number of their tribe?—A. His tribe is about 120 all told, but that does not cover all—the forty licenses cover all the tribes.

Q. Then their complaint is because they only get forty licenses?—A. He says the white men come here and get licenses and his people were here first. It is the same old story. The white men come and get licenses first in preference to them, and he says they should not. Many tell him the Indians come to help the fishermen. He thinks if the Indians would not help the fishermen, there would be no fishery at all.

Q. What does he mean by fishermen?—A. The cannerymen.

Q. That if not for the Indians the cannerymen would not get on with their work?—A. Yes ; that is what he means. He says God gave them these waters and the fish and the land, and now it is taken away from them by new comers.

Q. You tell him that the law gives preference to them—that they can fish without licenses for their own use, but not for barter or sale, and that when they come in competition with white men, they must stand in the same position as white men, but when fishing for their own use, they can fish without licenses.—A. But I may tell you, Mr. Wilmot, that they are not allowed to fish. I know an instance where their nets were taken and cut to pieces up at Yale—a poor cripple of a man—and they have not the privileges you speak of.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Well, who did that?—A. Well, I won't tell you who did it—I know who did it, and I had to pay \$5 out of my own pocket to get twine for that poor old man.

Q. Do Indians use any other way than by drifting and spearing?—A. They don't spear at all—they only put up a few barrels for their own use.

Q. When did this occur, Mr. Tiernan, if you will not tell us the name?—A. Three years ago—it was an officer of the fisheries department.

Q. Then an officer of the law?—A. Yes.

Q. Well, I think the same law prevails here and it is intended at least that the same shall be throughout the whole Dominion, that Indians on their reserves shall fish at any time and in any manner, but they must not fish for sale or barter?—A. Well, that is just what I want to know—I wanted to know if they are allowed in any manner to catch fish for their own use; I want your opinion on that point?

Q. But if allowed to catch them for their own use they must be allowed appliances—they cannot catch them with their hands alone?—A. With nets.

Q. Well, if with nets they must be for their own use—but if they catch them and put them in the market they are the same as whitemen and must come under the same rules.—A. But they want to know if they can catch these fish and put up a few barrels of fish for their own use?

Mr. WILMOT.—Certainly they are allowed to do that—that is the intention.

Mr. TIERNAN.—Well, I know an officer was sent up last year and they took away an old man's net—an old man 70 years of age, and he has never got it back yet.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. Well, I think you are bound to answer the question as to who this was—if you know it?—A. Well, I would not like to tell it.

Q. Well, there are lots of things people do not like to tell, but when on the stand they have got to tell it.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Was it Mr. Green?—A. No.

Q. Was it Mr. McDonald?—A. No.

Q. It was not Mr. Grant or McNeish?—A. Oh, no.

Q. Then these are all the fishery officers—do you know Mr. McNabb?—A. Yes.

Mr. McNABB.—No; I believe it was before my time.

Mr. WILMOT (to Mr. McNabb).—Those are all the officers I have read over?

Mr. McNABB.—Yes, at present.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. It happened at Yale?—A. Yes.

Q. Then you have to give the name, Mr. Tiernan.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. And if this man did this it is most unjust?—A. Well, it is too late now—he is in New Westminster.

Mr. McNABB.—May I be allowed to say a word?

Mr. WILMOT.—Yes.

Mr. McNABB.—Under the present act none of the officers under me was guilty of this crime our friend attributes to me, but had that occurred last year his net would have been taken away because the law demands it, because Indians are allowed to catch fish in any other way except by drifting or spearing and these are disallowed—an officer to do his duty would be obliged to do this.

A. Well, if I am compelled to say it—I am on my oath—his name was John Buie.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, under the circumstances that Mr. McNabb states, John Buie would be perfectly justified in doing this. Mr. McNabb is it your duty to instruct officers under you to seize nets that may be used by Indians in the river?

Mr. McNABB.—Just to illustrate this, I may say last year I went out myself and the old man, the Chief, had a long net and he took it in and promised not to use it again. There was a good deal of correspondence with the Indian department, and after a good deal of correspondence, I received a letter which the Minister sent to the Indian department that an officer was obliged to take these nets, as it was against the law.

A. But in any case it exceeded the law to take it and cut it.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Well, I don't know—if a net is illegally used and you simply take it away, it would be used again—the practice is to cut or burn them all over the Dominion—they

are generally sold at auction and bought in by friends—the best way is by destroying them—I merely speak of the general rule?—A. Well, but the general rule should not be in force against the Indians.

Q. Yes, but the intention is to give the Indians a privilege the whitemen have not—he can fish at any time on his reserves, but if he goes in to sell or barter, why he must be on the same footing as whitemen?—A. Oh, we know that—but, Mr. McNabb what does a whiteman pay for his privilege of fishing for his own use.

By Mr. McNabb :

Q. \$2?—A. Well, now sir ; what great privilege is that—the whiteman fishes for \$2.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. But Indians fish for nothing—now what does this man (Capt. George) want?—A. He wants unlimited licenses for Indians—every Indian to get a license.

Q. Would they pay \$20?—A. Oh, I don't know.

Q. Do they work for canneries?—A. Yes, they do mostly—may I ask if \$20 will be the license fee this year?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, that is not settled yet.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Oh, yes ; it is the law now—an Indian fishes for his own use now for nothing, except they use spears or drift-nets?—A. But under that law they cannot fish unless they go in and catch fish with their hands.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. The law intends they shall have the same facilities they had before whitemen came here?—A. Well, I will tell you—before the whitemen came they had nets and now they cannot have these—why should they not be allowed to fish?

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. I must admit there is an error in some way in the regulations—the law at present says they cannot fish with drift-nets or spears, but cannot they fish with nishagans or negogs, or whatever they are called?—A. Oh, no ; they do not use them here—that is for eastern Indians.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. But don't the canneries pay them well for their work?—A. Oh, well ; the cannerymen a'ways pay them whatever they promise—they treat them well.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well, you ask the Indian whether it is not a fact that their names are put down for a license and the cannerymen pay for the license and use it—ask him that?—A. He says that some Indians have boats and nets of their own but not all of them and when they have not boats and nets the cannerymen—Mr. Munn and Mr. Ewen—and Mr. Laidlaw—gives them \$20 and supplies them with boat and net and when they get their money they pay them back.

Q. Then they virtually get the same privilege as whitemen and cannerymen get the advantage of boat and net?—A. Well, really I think the cannerymen do it for charity.

Q. Oh, no ; for business?—A. Well, they would not give it to whitemen the same.

Q. Probably that is what he means by not doing without the Indians. The cannerymen put down the Indians' names for licenses and they get the licenses all the while?—A. But I know to my knowledge the cannerymen never put down their names without them going and working for it.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Just ask him again about the boat and net?—A. No ; he says if they had no boat and net of their own, the cannery say come and we will give you a boat and net for half the profit out of the sockeye ; when he has no dollars he borrows the money from the cannery.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Then the license is taken out in the Indians name, but the cannery pays the money and derives all the benefit from the license?—A. No.

Q. Ask him what he gets for his fish under this license?—A. Well, he says if they get 40 sockeye they give half to the cannery and the other half is their own.

Q. And if a hundred?—A. The same way ; we give the cannery one-half and sell the other fish at usual prices.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Well, ask him if he thinks the boat and net and license would be any use if it was not for the canneries to buy his fish?

Mr. ARMSTRONG (who understood Chinook)—But you should not suggest the answer to him ; let him put the answer himself ; what does he say?—A. He says he could do nothing with them, but dry them and salt them.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Just ask him how many fish he caught in his boat the year before last or last year?—A. He didn't catch any ; I can answer for him ; he was not fishing ; he is a kind of constable and goes about keeping the regulations between the different tribes of Indians and he did not fish at all ; that I know of my own knowledge.

Q. Where does he reside?—A. At Harrison River.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Is he a representative of all the Indians?—A. Yes ; he is a Chief. There were 50 wanted to come, but he came for all ; he came on their behalf.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Is there anything else?—A. He says that some persons told him in New Westminster that you (to Chairman) said the Indians were all lazy, and that they would fish for a few weeks only, and he says that is not correct and he is displeased.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. Well, just tell the Indian that the man who told him that also told a falsehood ; tell him Mr. Wilnot has always been an advocate of the Indian.—A. Yes ; he says he does not like Mr. Wilnot to go back to Canada with that idea.

Q. Yes ; and you can readily understand that parties not liking Mr. Wilnot would tell him that to prejudice him and the Indians against me.—A. Yes ; he says when the Princess Louise came here she spoke to him and she told him if anything did not go right to speak to her about it and she would represent it to the Queen.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Well, but what is it he doesn't like?—A. Well, it is this : that Italians and Greeks and other whitemen come here and get all the licenses on the river.

Q. Well, you should disabuse this man's mind of that ; they would do nothing with the fish if the whitemen were not here?—A. Yes ; but they all work.

Q. Well, so do we all work. You see if even the Indians catch less fish than the average whiteman he gets some \$200 at least for them, and if it was not for the canneries they would get nothing at all?—A. Another grievance is one entirely among the Indians themselves. You see they only get 40 licenses and the same Indians get them all the time and of course there is much discontent among the other Indians.

MR. HIGGINS.—Yes ; but that is for Mr. Wilmot to look into ; but you should disabuse the Indians' minds that they should have all the land and all the fish, etc.

MR. WILMOT.—I think it is the rule all over the Dominion that all Indians on their reserves have the right to fish and get all they want, but as soon as they begin to compete with white men, they must come under the same conditions.

MR. ARMSTRONG.—Well, we have allowed this to go on, Mr. Tiernan, because it is an Indian matter, but I think it has gone on long enough. We should not let you speak at all, Mr. Tiernan.

MR. TIERNAN.—Oh, well, it has, perhaps, gone long enough. I am much obliged.

L. H. BAIN, a native of New Brunswick, in British Columbia since 1879, book-keeper for the "Delta" cannery at Ladner's Landing, where he is a resident, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. How long have you lived at Ladner's Landing ?—A. Seven years.

Q. Do you know a slough called Cohiluthan Slough ?—A. Yes.

Q. Can you give the Commission some idea of the condition of that slough ?—A. Well, I have made a rough sketch of the slough and vicinity. If you will allow me to put it in, I will explain it.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Does it differ materially from this printed map ?—A. Well, it shows the residences along the river and slough, and will explain it in more detail.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. What is the length of that slough ?—A. Well, from the head down, about two miles.

Q. (Scanning diagram handed in.) What are these marks dotted along here ?—A. Those squares are dwelling houses. Those red crosses are stables. These red lines show open ditches running into the slough. This here is a dam about half-way up the slough—this dam has been there for last two years. There is a gate in it, but any offal coming up the slough—very little could go by there, it would lodge. Very little would go to the head of the slough. This is the locality where there were several cases of typhoid fever, and this is the residence of Mr. Arthur, who gave evidence before the Commission at New Westminster.

Q. What is the distance between the "Delta" cannery and Mr. Arthur's residence ?—A. About two miles or two and a half.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Going up the slough, is it longer ?—A. No ; it is two and a half miles by the slough. I may say in regard to offal of last year—previous to last year all offal was thrown in the river—before last year, I never heard of any complaints from offal being thrown into the river, and the fish from the "Delta" cannery—it has been running an oily, and all the offal from the cannery has been going to this oily.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Do you put that (the diagram of the slough) in as evidence, Mr. Bain ?—A. Well, I merely made it to explain my statements. I would think that any offal that went up last year was the result of an accident. The place where we put the offal into the scow broke down, and the offal, for one day's work, went into the slough, and a portion of that may have gone up the slough, but none went in this year except that.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Where are their canneries from here (showing plan) ?—A. Mr. Wadham's cannery is about half a mile from there. I was saying that what offal did go up the slough

last year was the result of an accident on account of the staging breaking down. I would also say that where there were several cases of fever, the people don't drink slough water—they drink water from tanks and reservoirs.

Q. And there they had fever?—A. Yes; here at the dam where any offal coming up the slough would be certain to lodge, there were no cases of fever at all; and if the water in the slough is contaminated it is from the drainage from the houses and stables.

Q. (Scanning diagram)—What does crosses here designate?—A. Stables.

Q. Is this plan drawn to a scale at all?—A. No; it is simply drawn from memory.

Q. Do you know whose house that is (pointing to plan)?—A. It is Herbert Kirkland's, about 50 or 60 yards from the edge of the slough.

Q. And who lives here?—A. Mr. Thomas Ladner's farmhouse.

Q. Where is Mr. William Ladner's, how far from the slough?—A. About a quarter of a mile, more or less; well, yes, about a quarter of a mile.

Q. Then what you contend is this: that by an accident the Delta cannery allowed a portion of its offal to get into the water and it was carried up into the slough?—A. Yes; now there was a certain part of it went up the slough, not all of it.

Q. What other canneries are there between the slough and Canoe Pass?—A. Wadham's, the Harlock, a cannery near Canoe Pass; all these were furnishing the oilery with their offal.

Q. Does the tide run very strong there?—A. There is a rapid current all down there.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Is the water in the slough fast?—A. Oh, about two miles an hour.

Q. What do you think the current of the Fraser is?—A. About six miles an hour.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. And does offal lodge anywhere else along the shore of the river, from Canoe Pass up to Ladner's Landing and Crescent Slough; have you ever seen any offal lodging along there?—A. I have never seen any offal along there and with the exception of Wadham's, all the offal went to this oilery.

Q. All got there?—A. Well, I cannot vouch for all offal from others, but as far as the "Delta" cannery is concerned, it all went except that day I told you of.

Q. How does it come down from the cannery?—A. It comes down in a shoot into the scow.

Q. And you think it all went to the oilery, except this case you mention?—A. Yes.

Q. Where are these houses drained into?—A. Into the slough.

Q. Do you live near the slough?—A. Oh, yes.

Q. Did you ever drink any water from the slough?—A. Yes; I have drunk it last season and every season.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Any consequences?—A. No.

Q. Have you heard of any one else, any typhoid fever?—A. One case at this hotel.

Q. Died?—A. No; I don't think so.

Q. When did that occur, last year?—A. Yes.

Q. The only year you didn't throw offal into the river, how do you explain it?—A. Well, it must have been through other causes.

Q. Do you think the drainage into the slough is bad for the public health?—A. Yes; I should think it is.

Q. Did you ever see the slough bare?—A. Yes.

Q. What colour was it?—A. Black and muddy.

Q. Did you ever see persons mixing lime juice with that water?—A. No; I don't know.

Q. How many houses do you think drain into the slough?—A. Well, I am not prepared to say exactly, about 50 or 60.

Q. Are you a resident of Delta?—A. Yes.

Q. The town is composed of how many inhabitants?—A. The village of Ladner's Landing? Oh, about two or three hundred.

Q. They have a council?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Are these respectable men that compose this Council?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Quite respectable and representative of the people too?—A. Yes, I suppose so.

Q. And if these people said that offal caused this typhoid fever would they be incorrect?—A. They would be simply under a misapprehension, what I wanted to say was that very little offal went up last year into this slough.

Q. But you are putting your opinion against the municipal authorities on this matter?—A. Oh, I would not say that.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I think you are rather too sweeping, Mr. Chairman, we have had medical authorities here.

Mr. WILMOT.—But to refer to the municipal authorities, I only mean as to whether this man's opinion should over-turn the whole of the opinions of the municipal authorities?

Mr. HIGGINS.—I think we must take a point, Mr. Chairman, when we go down there to stop off and see this slough.

Mr. WILMOT.—But they are not catching fish there now.

Mr. HIGGINS.—No, they are catching sewage now, an eminent medical man has been before us and he says the microbes were in this water and he left the place because he could not get water to drink.

Mr. HIGGINS.—It has been sworn before this Commission that large numbers of sockeye, lots of salmon have been thrown into the river, how long have you been at the Delta Cannery?—A. Seven years.

Q. Have you seen any thrown away?—A. No, not in large quantities, I have seen some.

Q. Have you seen any?—A. Yes, I have seen a few thrown off the wharf.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Do you keep count of the fish that come into the Delta cannery?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How many last year?—A. About 150,000.

Q. That was a short year?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. As many again came in the year before?—A. In 1890? No, I think not, not twice as many. To find out how many salmon are caught we simply take eleven times the number of cases packed.

Q. Well, how many cases were packed in 1890?—A. Between 15,000 and 16,000 I think, I am speaking entirely from memory and I may be a little off.

Q. What is the usual size of those fish?—A. In the good years they run smaller than in "off" years. In a good year, say 7 pounds, and in an "off" year probably a little more, $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 pounds.

Q. How many cans are made from a fish as a rule?—A. Between 4 and 5.

Q. And what is done with the balance?—A. It was used for making oil last year.

Q. Is it not thrown away as offal?—A. It is thrown away as offal.

Q. How much do these cans hold?—A. Generally a pound.

Q. Is it possible to put 22 or 24 ounces in a can?—A. No, that is impossible.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Can you put 20 ounces in?—A. No, 18 may be put in.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Is it usual to put 18 in?—A. No, they calculate to give good weight, in having a little more than the weight.

Q. Have you seen the boats fishing?—A. Yes.

Q. Do they keep one-third of the river clear when fishing?—A. No, I would not say they do.

Q. You have been a close observer in other matters, I thought you would take observation of that too?—A. I don't know as they left any part of the river vacant, they fish all over; immediately in front of Ladner's Landing they don't fish, because there is a bar there, and they don't fish on it.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. How many members does the municipal council of Delta consist of?—A. Five and a Reeve.

Q. Six then—are there any legal men in that body?—A. No, I don't know of any.

Q. Now if six or sixty non-professional men expressed an opinion upon a scientific subject of which they know nothing, and two men whose life-long business has been to study this question upon which they speak, expressed a contrary opinion, whose opinion would you be likely to accept?—A. I would be likely to accept the opinion of the two.

MR. HIGGINS.—So would I.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Have you never heard that professional men often give direct evidence opposite to what others give?—A. Professional men? Oh, yes.

MR. HIGGINS.—The question is whether non-scientific evidence is to be taken or scientific evidence, it is not to be thought likely that any member of this Commission should take evidence from persons who know nothing about the matter in preference to men who have made a study of causes of diseases.

MR. WILMOT (emphatically). I state equally that every scientific man who has been brought here states that the water gets contaminated by the offal going into it.

MR. ARMSTRONG.—Order, gentlemen.

MR. HIGGINS.—Never mind, Mr. Armstrong, you have had a week of it, I have not been here.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Well, about the sockeye and lots of fish thrown away, did you ever see any "quinnat" thrown away?—A. No.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. And you are bookkeeper at the Delta cannery?—A. Yes, sir.

MR. WILMOT.—That is all, sir; that is all I wanted to ask.

B. J. SHORT, a native of New Brunswick, four years in British Columbia, manager of the Lulu Island Canning Company, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Well sir, what have you got to say?—A. In regard to this fish offal, we had a case of typhoid fever at Steveston, and we used to see all cases of fever before the cannery started in the spring—the offal did not appear to have any injurious effect.

Q. Anything else, sir?—A. I never see any offal around the shores of the river in our part.

Q. Is it a fact that it is all shoved out of the canneries into the water?—A. Yes; I think so, certainly the offal goes into the water.

Q. Is it correct that fish will run from six to eight pounds?—A. Yes.

Q. Is it also correct you get about four and a half cans from it?—A. Yes; about twelve fish to the case, the case weigh about twenty-two or twenty-one ounces, can and all.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. What would be the weight of the cans alone? Three or four ounces?—A. Yes; I suppose it will.

Q. Do they put more than a pound in a can?—A. Not much more.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. And the Lulu cannery is how far away from Ladner's Landing?—A. I think it is about six or eight miles, on the opposite side down the river—I think they call it six miles.

Q. You are a paid officer—manager?—A. No, a member of the firm.

Q. Do you receive any emolument for being manager?—A. No.

Q. All the emolument you get is a share of the profits?—A. Yes.

Q. Are you in and about the cannery during the season?—A. Yes.

Q. And you never saw any offal on the edges of the river?—A. No.

Q. Did you look specially for it?—A. No, I never look specially for it—oh, of course there may be some offal lying about, but I never noticed it.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Are there many scavenger fish around your cannery?—A. Yes, they are very thick.

Q. And when you throw it over—they go at it at once?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. How deep is the water where offal is cast in?—A. We have a shoot and it goes in at about six or eight fathoms.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. Is your building built on piles?—A. Yes.

Q. And about 40 to 50 feet deep are they?—A. Yes, our piles are 50 to 60 feet.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Was there any sickness there before your cannery came?—A. I don't know—it is possible.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. How many boats had you?—A. We had twenty licenses.

Q. How many others did you employ besides the twenty?—A. Six or seven.

Q. And how many cases did you put up in '90?—A. We were a new cannery—about 10,000.

Q. And were those fish caught down on the sand heads?—A. Yes, down in the channel.

Q. Was fishing promiscuously done or was one-third of the channel kept open?—A. Oh, I think they fished promiscuously, but I suppose they do keep the channel open. I don't pay particular attention to that.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Is the health of your vicinity good?—A. Yes, during the summer I do not live there—I live in Vancouver.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. When is it not healthy?—A. Well, in the spring—that was when the cases of sickness were there.

Q. Any sickness in the fall?—A. I don't know whether there was or not—the cases I speak of were in the spring before we can at all—they were turning up the soil in laying out the town site.

Q. The fever was ploughed out from the ground?—A. Well, I suppose so.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. What is your favourite beverage down at the cannery, Mr. Short?—A. Tea or water.

Q. Do your hands drink the water there?—A. Yes, they have nothing else.

Q. Do they dilute it?—A. Well, I don't know—I suppose some do.

Q. Do they boil it?—A. Well, not there—they do in some places.
 Mr. HIGGINS.—Some water is not good at all unless boiled.
 Mr. WILMOT.—Very good; that will do.

ROBERT MITCHELL, a native of Scotland, three years in British Columbia, a fisherman, and resident of Vancouver, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Now what do you want to say?—A. Well, I would like to get a license granted. I fished for Mr. Munn the year before last at Sea Islands Cannery—I was only paid 6½ cents, and I understand that some of those who had licenses was paid 20 cents.

Q. Did you apply for licenses?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And why were you not given a license?—A. I don't know—I did not go to see, but some of the boys in the same house went. I went out to the sealing that year. Mr. Munn furnished me with a boat and net.

Q. Did any of your neighbours fish for Mr. Munn that had licenses of their own?—A. No, sir; not that I know of.

Q. Did you get same price as the rest?—A. Oh, yes; I understand I got the same price as the others who had not licenses.

Q. Then what would you gain if you had a license?—A. Well, I would get 20 cents if I had a license of my own; I think I would; 15 or 20.

Q. Not having a license you got but 6½?—A. 6½.

Q. Then your neighbour in the boat got 6½?—A. No; we only got half of that, 3¼ cents each.

Q. And others got 20?—A. Yes; Mr. Munn furnished the boat and net and gave us 6½ cents between the two of us.

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. And if you had furnished boat and net, what would you have got?—A. I think I would have got 20 cents if I had a license.

Q. Well, Mr. Munn furnished you with plant and gave you 6½ cents?—A. Yes.

Q. When did you fish for Mr. Munn?—A. The year before last.

Q. How many fish did you catch?—A. Near 6,000, I think.

Q. Would that be the average of boats?—A. Yes; for Mr. Munn's cannery, I think.

Q. Can you give an opinion as to effects of offal in the water?—A. Well, I don't enjoy the water very good, but it don't do my health any harm. Of course I would prefer the water on the up side of the cannery to that from the lower side.

Q. Why one side more than the other?—A. Because the offal from the cannery was effecting the water a little on the down side.

Q. Then your principal complaint is you would like a license?—A. Yes; and I think the Sunday should be closed.

Q. Oh, you think all Sunday should be kept as holiday?

By Mr. Higgins:

Q. Could you not keep it yourself and let the canneries break the Sabbath?—A. Well, I don't know as I could; being hired by the cannery and the canuery furnishing me with boat and nets. Of course I never did stay ashore. I always went out, but I did not like it. I don't know if Mr. Munn would care about it. If I had a license of my own I would not go out. I think the cannery would take the fish from me on Monday.

By Mr. Wilmot:

Q. Are there others like you who object to fish on Sunday?—A. Well, there are four that I know; they don't want to fish on Sunday.

Q. Then you say cannerymen rather hold out as a necessity that people they hire shall commence working at 6 o'clock?—A. No; I don't say that. I don't say the 10c—25

cannerymen compel men to go to work on Sunday at 6 o'clock. I never staid ashore, but suppose I told them I would not go, they would probably tell me to go. I think if I staid ashore on Sunday night and the cannerymen asked me to go, I dare say they would tell me to go, I never asked Mr. Munn.

Q. And you think the law allowing fishing on Sunday corrupts the morals of some men?—A. Yes; I think so. I never like to go out myself. I think the close season might be made from 6 o'clock Saturday night to 12 o'clock Sunday.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. But what would cannerymen do with fish caught on Saturday?—A. Well, I don't know.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. It was changed to suit them, you know.—A. Well, I don't think it is changed right.

Q. Do you think every British subject should have a license?—A. I think every one who wants a license should get a license.

Q. Do you think it correct to sell licenses, so one man gets a license and sells it to you for a certain price, is that right?—A. No, sir; I do not think any man should get a license and sell it to another man; I don't think it is right.

Q. Did you ever fish in Scotland in the rivers there?—A. No, sir; I fished in Scotland in the deep-sea fishing.

Q. Were any inducements held out to you to come here to fish?—A. Yes; my brother was here, and he said it was a good place for fishing, and I came here.

Does your brother get a license?—A. No, sir.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. Is he a fisherman?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You think that has a tendency to prevent people from coming here?—A. I do, because summer time is the proper time for fishing, and if you cannot get a license then, I don't see how you are going to do it.

Q. Then you think you should get a license, and that the close season should be extended to the whole Sunday?—A. Yes, sir.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well; that will do.

THOMAS CAMPBELL, a native of Scotland, three years in British Columbia, a fisherman, and resident of Vancouver, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. What have you got to state?—A. I have got to state that I put in the last two years for licenses and I could not get one.

Q. Was any cause assigned for this?—A. Well, I asked last year if any more were to be given out and he said there were five or six, but some others applied for them, and I asked him if they were fishermen and he said yes; they went to people calling themselves fishermen.

Q. Did you fish last year?—A. I fished on Sea Island cannery for Mr. Munn.

Q. How did you fish; on what terms?—A. Well, he gave me a boat and net and so much per fish.

Q. How much?—A. Six and a half cents.

Q. That is between you and your man?—A. Yes.

Q. What was current price to people fishing with licenses?—A. Of their own?

Mr. WILMOT.—Yes.—A. Twenty cents.

Q. Would you have got 20 cents if you had licenses of your own?—A. Yes; I think I would.

Q. How many boats fished for that cannery?—A. I cannot say.

Q. How many fish did you catch in your boat last year?—A. About 4,000.

- Q. Was it a short year?—A. They called it a poor year.
Q. And yet you got 4,000 salmon?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Armstrong :

- Q. Have you anything more?—A. No.
Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Thank you; that will do.

JOHN BROWN, a native of Portugal, in British Columbia since 1858, a resident of Vancouver, a fisherman and boatmaker, describing himself as a British subject since the time of the first elections being held in British Columbia, was then duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

- Q. Well, what is your complaint?—A. I want a fishing license.
Q. Have you ever had one?—A. I had one four years ago and have made application every year since but got no answer.
Q. Then your complaint wholly now is that you want a license?—A. Yes.
Q. Where do you want to fish?—A. On the Fraser River.
Q. Have other persons got licenses since you applied, any of your neighbours?—A. No, not my neighbours, but many applied 4 years ago and have got licenses, but I have not.
Q. Have you fished for canneries since?—A. No, I am getting too old to fish myself, but the cannery get licenses and they don't fish them either.
Q. And you want a license as well as them?—A. Well, I could pull a boat anyway.
Q. Then your principal object is to get a license if you can?—A. Yes sir, that is what I want.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—That will do; thank you.

JOSEPH GOUSTAF, a native of Portugal, in British Columbia, since 1874 and a British subject by naturalization since 1892, a resident of Vancouver, and a fisherman, was duly sworn.

By Mr. Wilmot :

- Q. What do you want?—A. Well, I have been fishing since I came in the country the biggest part of the time and I have made application for licenses for the last four years but could not get one.
Q. And is that the principal matter you wish to bring before this Commission?—A. Yes sir.
Q. Well sir, I don't know as we can do anything more for you than to record your name and that you want a license; would one be enough?—A. Yes, one will do very well.
Q. And you have been fishing on the river?—A. Yes, I have been fishing for Mr. Ewen and for Mr. Munn.

By Mr. Armstrong :

- Q. Where do you fish in winter?—A. Well one winter I was sick, last winter I fished right here in Vancouver.

By Mr. Wilmot :

- Q. What kind of fish do you catch?—A. Small fish of all kinds, smelts, herrings, etc.
Q. You fish with a seine?—A. Yes.
Q. What length of seine?—A. About 50 fathoms, something like that.
Q. What meshes in the bag?—A. An inch extension and $2\frac{1}{2}$ in the "wings."
Q. What length of bag?—A. $3\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms.
10c—26 $\frac{1}{2}$

Q. And you catch a great number of small fish, don't you?—A. There used to be a great many, but now there are not so many, all we catch is small enough for the market.

Q. Do you ever get smaller than small enough for the market?—A. A few, but very few.

By Mr. Armstrong :

Q. And when you catch those very small fish you pull your seine ashore and pull all those small fish in don't you?—A. Well, sometimes the smaller ones go through, we cannot get them.

Q. Do they go through half inch mesh?—A. Oh yes, smelt will go through sometimes, smelt are very small fish.

Q. All along this coast is the same, you people, Portuguese, Italians, etc., fishing here all use the same small net you had in your own country, and you catch the same small fish of all kinds, young salmon and all kinds. A. Oh, some salmon come here but they never breed here, we never get young salmon.

Q. Well, but the point is that you catch a great many small fish which if let alone would become in a year or two fit for the market?—A. Well, we never can get the small ones anyway, they go through, we have to use this small mesh to catch the smelt, we cannot catch them any other way.

Q. You drag the net ashore with all the fish in it—do you pick out the big fish for market?—A. Yes.

Q. What do you do with the small ones?—A. Well, the little ones we let go if they are no use—sometimes we just throw the fish out and let them go.

Q. Do you think many live to get out?—A. Oh, yes; many of them.

Q. Well, the point is that these young fish are thrown on shore when you draw the seine and then they are left there to rot?—A. Well, let them prove it—but it was the oil factory ruined the fishery—not us.

Q. How did they do it?—A. Well, they threw in lots of refuse from the factory and it drove the fish away.

Q. What effect has it to throw refuse like this in?—A. Well, it spoils the fishing grounds and drives the fish away—he has quit that business now.

Mr. HIGGINS.—He is dead.

By Mr. Wilnot :

Q. And you think throwing in this offal destroys the fish?—A. Yes.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Very well, that will do. After an interval of a few minutes and no witnesses coming forward—

Mr. WILMOT.—I judge the publicity of this meeting has been very general, because there has been a large audience all day and it appears there are none others to come forward.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I move we adjourn to New Westminster, to Monday, at 8 a.m., or such time as the steamer will be ready to go down the river, so we may inspect the location of the canneries, etc.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes, all right.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well—Monday morning at 8 a.m., but before adjourning, I wish to present a communication to the Board, which I have received from the Vancouver Board of Trade, which I will read, and then hand to our Secretary for incorporation in the Minutes of Proceedings.

VANCOUVER BOARD OF TRADE.

George E. Berteaux, President ; W. F. Salsbury, Vice-President ; A. H. B. Macgowan, Secretary.

VANCOUVER, B.C., March 11th, 1892.

To the Members of the Royal Fisheries Commission, Vancouver, B.C.

"GENTLEMEN,—At a meeting of the council of this Board held last evening, the following resolution was unanimously adopted, viz. :—

"Whereas the salmon fisheries are of great importance to the city and to the province in general, and

"Whereas in the markets of the world there is very keen competition with the Alaska and Columbia River fisheries in this business ; and

"Whereas the consequence of any hindrance to the successful prosecution of these fisheries would result disastrously to the country.

"We, the council of the Vancouver Board of Trade, beg respectfully to submit to the members of the Royal Fisheries Commission, the following recommendations, viz. :—

"Licenses.

"1. That in view of the large amount of capital invested in the canning business and of the extensive preparations that have to be undertaken for the fishing season so long in advance of the actual commencement of operations, it is essential for the canners to be able to rely on having a certain fixed number of boats with which to prosecute their industry, and that this number should not be less than 25, which number should not be subject to change from year to year ; also that for the northern canneries the number of licenses held by those canneries last year be not subject to reduction.

"Offal.

"2. That, whereas, we believe the disposal of the salmon offal in the Fraser River in deep water, is neither injurious to the health of the people nor to fish life, the canners are not required to do more than deposit it in deep water, as hampering regulations in this respect might act most prejudicially to the industry.

"Close time.

"3. That in view of the extremely short fishing season, the regulations as to weekly close time on Fraser River, remain as before, viz., from 6 a.m., on Saturday, to 6 p.m., on Sunday, by which arrangement practically no work is done on the Sabbath.

"Hatchery.

"4. That the hatchery is worthy of every support, and that it is desirable that inspectors be appointed to further investigate and report on the habits of salmon, especially in up country waters, and by marking fish to obtain closer information as to their movements.

"Commending these observations respectfully for your consideration,

"I have the honour to remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) "A. H. B. MACGOWAN,
Secretary."

[Seal.]

Mr. PORT, of New Westminster, who had previously given evidence upon two occasions, then entered into an informal conversation with the Commissioners, the substance of his remarks and complaints being as follows :—

That the difficulty in connection with the interim licenses was that the number to be granted was too small.

Mr. McNABB.—I have instructions that the granted number of licenses were not to be exceeded.

By Mr. Wilmot :

Q. How long is it since that order came ?—A. About a fortnight ago.

Q. Oh, yes ; that is, the old order will stand good until the new decision is reached. Only for the present the interim licenses will go on.

Mr. PORT.—But the final recommendation of the Commission should not interfere with work that is going on now.

Mr. McNABB.—Mr. Port is interested in getting licenses for catching fish that are running now—these are the fish he wants. He wants to get ten licenses, and I told him I could not see my way to recommend that he should get ten, because I received word that they were all to be placed on a similar footing.

Mr. PORT.—Well, I may say I do not think the interim licenses should effect the number afterwards given—I have prepared ice and other things.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. You were on the stand at New Westminster, Mr. Port ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And it was stated that you sold fish to the canners ?—A. That is not correctly stated, sir.

Mr. WILMOT.—The witness must have forgotten that he was on oath.

By Mr. Higgins :

Q. Well, I think we had it from others than fishermen ?—A. Well, I have frequently sold surplus fish to the canneries.

Q. Did you freeze any fish last year ?—A. Well, we don't intend to freeze any this year.

Q. What do you do with your licenses ?—A. Well, we ship away to other places. You must remember we are handling large quantities of fish. I would like to see every deserving man get a license.

Q. Well, the opinion of the Commission was, I think, that you were at an advantage over other parties ?—A. Now, on the basis of 1888, I can use the catch of 30 boats.

Q. I think the aim of the Commission should be that although you should not be at the mercy of individual fishermen, they should be placed so they are not at your mercy. I must say the way the license system has been conducted is simply scandalous.—A. Well, I had to have 10 licenses, and during the other part of the season I had to take salmon wherever I could get it. We export our fish nine-tenths of the time, but when we have a surplus of fish we sell them to the canneries.

Mr. WILMOT explained that the complaint made against Mr. Port was that during the sockeye run he sold his fish to the canneries whilst obtaining licenses as a freezer ; also that he thought persons going into the freezing business should have a certain number of licenses and that his belief was, that in time the freezers would take the place of the canneries.

Mr. PORT.—I admit the situation as regards the licenses, and selling fish looks unfavourable for the freezers.

A party in the audience here stated that the fresh fish dealers in Vancouver had been looking to Mr. Port and Mr. Vienna for their supplies of fish, and if licenses were denied them (Port and Vienna) they would have to be given in some other way.

The CHAIRMAN declared the Commission adjourned at 4.35 p.m., to meet again in New Westminster at 8 a.m., on Monday, 14th March, for the purpose of proceeding down the Fraser River, by steamer, to inspect the location of the canneries, Cohiluthan Slough, etc.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., 14th March, 1892.

The Commission met on board the steamer "Robert Dunsmuir" at 8 a.m.

Present : S. Wilmot, Esq., Chairman ; Hon. D. W. Higgins, Mr. Sheriff Armstrong, Mr. Charles F. Winter, Secretary.

At 9.10 a.m., the steamer got under weigh and proceeded down river by the south or main channel, the morning was bright and sunshiny, but the air was extremely cold and penetrating with a slight breeze from the sea.

Passing the various canneries the downward portion of the trip extended to the lighthouse out in the mouth of the river, where a turn was made and the home trip commenced. At Ladner's Landing a stop was made for dinner and for the purpose of the Commissioners inspecting Cohiluthan Slough. The Commissioners inspected the Slough at its mouth at the "Delta" cannery about 1.30 p.m. Slough here about 20 yards wide at high water and but a mere streak when tide is out. Water at time of visit was of the colour of porter, and when dipped up in a glass tumbler looked like cold tea. The Slough looks like a big ditch with high, soft, muddy banks, and the water appeared stationary, it being near flood tide. To the taste the water did not appear to be so very disagreeable, though the eye was repelled by its appearance and the place from which it came; a flavour of decaying wood and vegetable matter was perceptible. The soil about the banks had a peaty appearance and water trickling into the slough was discoloured. The Commissioners took vehicles at Ladner's Landing and proceeded along the slough to the top dam about 2 miles from the "Delta" cannery—about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile up the main dam was passed, and where much complaint had been made of offal lodging, etc., and of it being backed up by the tide to this point. The banks here were also soft mud, surmounted by a fringe of small brush and wild grass. The Commissioners were accompanied by Messrs. Thomas and W. H. Ladner, and Mr. D. J. Munn, who kindly pointed out the various points of interest and explained the question of offal in the slough from their different points of view. At the head of the slough the party met Mr. Arthur and Mr. E. S. Brown, farmers of the neighbourhood, and the former of whom had appeared before the Commission and giving evidence at Westminster. These gentlemen explained the deposit of offal at the head of the slough and the pernicious effects such had upon the surroundings and with much warmth reiterated their assertions that it was most injurious to the health of the community and particularly harmful to cattle in that the slough was the only place from which they could obtain water for the stock. Both Messrs. Arthur and Brown stated that in summer the stench of decaying offal floated up by the tide to the head of the slough and then left on the grass and bushes as the water retired, was something awful and that fish heads, guts, tails, etc., could be taken out in barrow loads quite plentifully. On return from inspecting the slough, Mr. Higgins left for Victoria by steamer "Princess Louise" at 3 p.m.

The "Dunsmuir" with Commissioners Wilmot and Armstrong, accompanied by the Secretary, left Ladner's Landing for Westminster at 4.15 p.m. Before leaving, the Commissioners visited the "Delta" cannery, this is one of the old canneries and of course not being in the season, everything was in a condition of winter quarters; the building is partly constructed upon piles overhanging the water, with a swift current and some twelve feet of water at the outside.

The next cannery visited was the "Standard," Laidlaw & Co., but as it was closed up, the party did not land but viewed the surroundings from the steamer. This cannery is a large new building, said to have been erected by the owners at a cost of about \$9,000 for the purpose of obtaining twenty additional licenses. It has a frontage of about 200 feet, and is built entirely upon piles with the water all the way under. Water at the edge of pier said to be about fifteen feet and the current strong.

The Commissioners next disembarked at Mr. Ewen's cannery or rather canneries, for there are two large ones alongside each other. Mr. Ewen has the largest and finest equipped establishment on the Fraser River, and is capable of putting up 2,000 cases of salmon a day. The canneries are built partly on a small island near the west bank of the channel and partly on piles overhanging the water—a current of about six miles an hour runs here, and the water at the dock is about fourteen feet deep. The new building which was put up to obtain the twenty additional licenses when all canneries were limited to twenty each, is 160 by 80 feet and cost \$16,000. The party were shown throughout the buildings and all details explained by the caretaker and Mr. Munn, to the latter of whom the party were indebted for much valuable information on technical matters and small details.

Empty cases (wooden) cost 16 cents each, tins cost \$1.00 a case of 48 cans, and the buildings and material are insured for 2 per cent. In the new building, 8,000 cases of new empty tins presented quite a formidable array.

The Commissioners and party reached New Westminster, at 6.10 p.m.

The following information *re* catches by boats was tendered by the book-keeper of the "Delta" cannery at Ladner's Landing:—(extracted from the books of the establishment in the presence of the Secretary of the Commission).

1891.—From 1st July to 20th July, boats took less than 20 a day; on 2nd July boats begin to take over 100 fish a day; on 24th July, 192 is highest; at the end of July, average about 90 to the boat, but in the beginning of August the takes are larger, thus:—On August 1st, one boat takes 274 salmon; on August 2nd one boat takes 300 and 368 salmon; on August 3rd one boat takes 418 and 438 salmon; on the 6th August one boat gets 605 fish.

Then by the end of August they average 200 and 300. And the total fish for the season was in 1891, with thirty-five boats, 140,080 fish, and in 1889, with thirty-two boats, 331,676 fish.

The following written statement was submitted to Mr. Wilmot by Mr. C. Stanley, of Guichon's Landing, and was ordered to be incorporated in the minutes of the Commission:—

"GUICHON'S LANDING, March 4th, 1892.

"To Mr. Wilmot:

"SIR,—In giving evidence at the Commission, I did not know the cannerymen were wanting more licenses, as I had just come up from Guichon's Landing at the time, last Saturday, 27th February, and did not know anything about it, and could hardly believe it when I was told some wanted 25, others more, and not being a good speaker, I forgot lots I would like to say on account of forgetfulness on my part. I therefore write you a little of my experience on this river, and could say much more about canneries, but I think this is sufficient. I will take oath any time to any part of it, or all, if there is any doubt about it. I have no malice against cannerymen; I only write what is true and strictly true at that.

"(Signed), CHARLES STANLEY."

The following enclosures accompanied the above communication:—

"In regard to licenses on the Fraser River at the present time, and in previous years, they have been issued unfairly and in an indifferent manner, especially towards the fishermen, who are granted 150 licenses; because the Indians and fish markets take licenses out of that number, also the Port Haney fishery, with seven licenses, that a canneryman bought up last year; also Mr. Port's and Dutch Bill's licenses were turned over to cannerymen in the sockeye run, and I am told Mr. Max Mowat had 10 licenses to himself last year. If there is to be a limit to licenses, I think 600 is enough and no more—give 300 to cannerymen and 300 to fishermen, instead of 500 for the Fraser River—any more than that number is not required. They could be divided in different ways, say 300 to canneries, 250 to fishermen, 50 to Indians. At present the canneries have 20 licenses apiece, that is too many, and more so in the large runs of fish, from six to eight boats will catch all the fish wanted; the others lying idle in a big run. I myself ran a camp of Indians for a canneryman in 1889; big run; and only eight or ten boats' fish were wanted to supply the cannery. The Indians were taken and put to work in the cannery when they were stopped fishing; in fact the cannery then had too much fish and threw them away into the river, I myself throwing over two scow loads at the camp, all rotten fish. In 1890, I ran a camp of Indians for Ben Young, Canoe Pass, in sockeye run, and there saw fish destroyed by wholesale, also a large ship load from the American side (Point Roberts) thrown overboard. He could not can them, although they were all paid for; in fact he knew, like all the others, that he could not can them, for his cannery was overloaded at the time they were caught and before. The excessive waste and indifference in previous years has been as great, in fact more so, for they have done as they pleased, and as I have had eighteen years experience at salmon fishing for myself and running of Indians and whitemen, I can justly say twenty licenses are too many for any cannery on the Fraser River, no matter whether the runs are large or small, and the fish markets being granted ten licenses is a shame and a wrong to the fishermen—they can-

not use the fish, therefore turn these licenses over to the cannerymen—the canneryman perhaps making them a present of one or two of their own licenses to get them—from two or four licenses is plenty for any market, and they should be made not transferable, and all fishermen one license apiece, to be made not transferable, to prevent selling of licenses to other men, and by those means men who are not fishermen will not apply for them—the Inspector to have power in case of sickness to allow men to fish, providing the fishermen cannot fish it himself. Fishermen who are not British subjects to have no license. In regard to some men who have licenses, I think they can do well without them—I mean men who have fine farms—from 160 to 600 acres of land—and others who are employed at the canneries at all around yearly wages, and who don't fish in any run of fish except the sockeye run for the cannery they work for. The canneries could get along well—taking one year with another, big run and small run—with from ten to fifteen licenses. In big runs that is too many—any more than that number would hurt the free fishermen. I hear the Indian Agent wants 100 licenses—I consider fifty licenses is enough—in fact none at all is more like it, for they are wards of the Government which gives them farming implements of all kinds—they have fine farms, and are helped by the Government—they can fish all the year round for themselves, and also pay no taxes, they were here before we came but let them use their ways of fishing and not the whiteman's invention, thereby underselling the whitemen. If allowed that privilege the same as whitemen, let them pay taxes, have votes, etc. We are taxed \$2 road tax and \$3 provincial tax, and \$20 for a license—fancy \$25 to go to work—just for the privilege of working one year. A large majority of Indians will not work contract, but demand days' wages, although the cannerymen would like to see the Indians get licenses, for as they say 'we can control the Indian but not the whitemen.' The Indians don't know enough, but the whiteman knows too much—no wonder they want twenty-five licenses, they could do without us all, and in big years not half those licenses would they want. They told the Government in 1887 and 1888, by unlimited fishing the result on the Fraser would be similar to the Columbia, and now they say 1,000 licenses would not hurt the river, but give them twenty-five licenses and the fishermen all they want—what selfishness—what are the fishermen going to do with all the licenses they want? Why they could not sell their fish, because Mr. canneryman has twenty-five and too well the canneryman knows it. Last year a cannery fished for spring salmon and sold them to the fish market thinking he would get the fish market licenses, but got left. These capitalists should be brought to time, for as long as sufficient salmon and good returns, never mind the excessive waste—'let us have those licenses' they cry—'Don't interfere with us,' 'don't force us to recognize anything,' and then we private monopolies can laugh, grow rich and look on everything with enmity and contempt—by wealth and cunning we can win the means of luxury—never mind the fishermen, they are weak and ignorant—such is the difference, they would have people think. The inequality in the possessions of individuals means crime and all sorts of misdemeanours the world over—want tempts the poor, and to preserve former gains tempts the rich—reduce these licenses and give fishermen a show on all rivers in British Columbia—it will prove successful, cause a larger distribution of money, and it will be circulating among the many instead of these few capitalists and agents who want it all, in fact, would take the world, if they could get it—that stops them.

Offal.

"In regard to offal thrown into the river it is most injurious and causes sickness—I myself have been sick drinking river water. I know people on the Delta flats say they had been sick through offal thrown into the river, not only offal but rotten fish, and those swell-heads the canneries throw into the river at night. A swell-head is a rotten can of salmon unfit for market, perfectly rotten. The Chinaman takes a soldering iron knocks a hole in the can so that it will be sure to sink, the stench would knock a nigger backwards let alone a white man—thrown overboard at night as well as other garbage, all offal floats more or less, except the swell-heads, in eddies and creeks, sloughs, dyke ditches, etc., and cause a most obnoxious smell and sickness. It floats up and down with the tides, some gets on the land, some hangs around the sloughs, etc., a pes-

tilent mass of rottenness—the water unfit to drink—you must go a good distance in a boat from the banks to get a bucket of water. A law should be passed making the cannerymen tow everything in the shape of offal outside to the Gulf of Georgia and there dump it into deep salt water and not be allowed to dump it in fresh water at all. It gets into our nets and makes them slimey and is very nasty to get out, and I have no doubt the salmon don't like it, for if it makes man sick surely it makes salmon sick."

Close Seasons.

"Except that the licenses are not issued early enough in the spring, say by the 10th of March, and not later, for sockeye salmon, one week longer would do no harm, the close season the cannerymen don't trouble about as long as they get enough sockeye, even then if they do fish for them, they say they are no good—there should be no close season on them."

Nets.

"The fishermen use a $7\frac{1}{4}$ and 8 inch mesh for spring salmon during March and April, 50 meshes deep. When the river rises about May, they cut these nets down to 30, 35, and 40 meshes to fish along the bars and banks of the river. A 50 mesh net can only be used early in the spring and then in deep water and only on slack water, high and low slacks. For sockeye $5\frac{1}{4}$ and 6 inch mesh, the majority of nets 40 meshes deep, some 30 and 35, very few 50 mesh, the majority of nets used at the mouth of the river are 35 and 30 meshes deep, and I do not think that nets at the mouth and as far out as the sand banks do any harm, there being lots of room for the fish to escape, most all the fishing there is done on tides, high and low slack, whereas up river they fish day and night never giving the fish a show to escape. There is a good 12 to 14 miles of fishing ground on high slacks in length and about 5 miles wide, so fish get more show to escape than anywhere on the river."

Hatchery.

"The hatchery is doing good and more hatcheries should be put up, and I would like to hear of them hatching out more red salmon. I have taken sockeyes that had their tails clipped in oval shape; they were fine large fish; one weighed 12 pounds; I sent its tail to the inspector in New Westminster. I always believe salmon return again to their own rivers. Trout on Harrison River and lake destroy lots of salmon ova and eat young salmon. The sockeye themselves are a very voracious fish. When fighting they destroy spawn, but do not eat it; they disturb it, and it floats to the top of the water and floats away. I have fished on Harrison River and lake and watched them doing it. Saw-dust is very bad for salmon; more to young fish."

Oil Factory.

"I believe if some one with experience, he could make it pay. The oil factory on the river at present is a small concern, and in a big year one or two canneries could supply it. With dryers and retorts for retorting the oil they could get away with much more and after retorting it and refining it they could find a market. I have worked around herring factories where they retorted the oil, then refined it, and the gurry that was left was used as a fertilizer after it went through a drying process, and it was a success. I have seined a good deal for herring in the winter time; also for the factory that was near Vancouver, but the herring failed and came less every year; the supposed cause was throwing the offal into the inlet in previous years, before Mr. Spratt built his fishery."

Seining for Salmon.

"Seining for salmon should be stopped everywhere, in river, harbour, bay, creek, or anywhere a seine can be used; it is a most destructive net; it takes everything it comes across, both little and big, destroying lots of young and small fish. I have seined both for salmon and herring, and know that for salmon it is most destructive.

"Sir, in my mention of the swell-heads thrown from canneries, I think about 200 cases to a cannery would be the most thrown away; of course some more, some less; it is rotten fish; and in 1889 the Harlock Packing Co. was the company I ran a camp for in the sockeye run, and I will take oath any time that ten licenses will run a cannery in full blast. In the two big years, even last year, the canneries at the mouth of the river could only just struggle through, in fact refused fish and would buy none; in fact there are some canneries who could not take seven or eight boats' fish and keep their wharves clear.

"Foreigners, such as Austrians, Italians, Greeks, etc., should be made to prove they have resided in the country the required time before getting citizens' papers, as a number come from the Puget Sound ports to fish here in the spring and sockeye runs, and then go back and become United States citizens, so that they can fish on Puget Sound.

"I am, sir, your obedient servant,
 "(Signed), CHARLES STANLEY,
 "Quichon's Landing, Fraser River."

The following memorandum was submitted by Mr. John McNabb, Inspector of Fisheries for the province of British Columbia:—

Memo. for consideration of the British Columbia Salmon Fishery Commission.

The following suggestions are respectfully submitted:—

"1. That the weekly close time on all rivers in British Columbia, with the exception of the Fraser, be from 3 p.m., on Saturday to 3 a.m., on the following Monday. Reasons:—A very large majority of the fishermen are Indians who object, and in fact refuse to labour on Sunday, and as it would not prove detrimental to the interest of the cannerymen or any one else to make the change, the religious convictions of the Indians should be respected."

"2. The close time for trout at present is from the 15th of October to the 15th of March. I beg to suggest that it be changed so as to read from the 1st day of October to the 15th day of February. Reasons:—Before the 15th of October the trout are ripe and in many streams have deposited their spawn, whereas in February they are in fairly good condition and are in demand for local consumption, other kinds of fish then being scarce."

"3. That from the 1st to the 25th day of September, both days inclusive, all net fishing be disallowed on the Fraser River. Reasons:—After the 1st September, sockeye salmon are unfit for food, and should have an unobstructed run to their spawning places, after the 25th September, the cohoes, or silver salmon, are running in numbers and are in demand for salting and market purposes.

"4. That the manufacture of oil as an article of commerce, from herring be disallowed in British Columbia. Reasons:—Herring are valuable as food fish, they are sold in large quantities in the markets of Victoria, Nanaimo, Vancouver, and New Westminster, and are highly prized as food by settlers on the coasts and Islands of the province, and also by the Indian population. They are also the principal bait fish of our waters. Destroying them in immense quantities for oil is a useless waste, as the dog-fish on the coast which are very destructive to all other kinds of fish, are sufficiently numerous to supply all the oil for which a market can be found at present.

(Signed), JOHN McNABB.

Memo. for Information of Commissioners.

List of salmon canneries owned and operated on the Fraser River during the season of 1891, by the Anglo-British Columbia Canning Company, of London, England. Bell-Irving and Patterson, Agents, Vancouver and Westminster."

"British Columbia," "Wadham's," "British American," "Canoe Pass," "Phenix," "Britannia," "Garry Point," "Annandale," and "Dunfries." Licenses issued for season of 1891, 20 boats and gill nets each.

Schedule of Fresh Salmon Dealers who have applied for licenses for season of 1892.

"E. W. Port & Co., Wm. Vianan, James Wise, J. E. Lord, Boutilier & Co., Neilson Bros., Port Haney Freezing Co., C. F. Petty & Co., Wright Bros. (9.) 24 canneries have also applied."

This closes the proceedings of the Commission so far as the public were concerned. But on the 19th March the Commissioners met in New Westminster to draw up a report. The minutes of which meeting and the conclusions arrived at are as follows :—

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., 19th March, 1892.

The Commission assembled at 1 p.m., in the parlour of the Colonial Hotel.

Present : Mr. S. Wilmot, in the Chair ; Hon. D. W. Higgins, Sheriff W. J. Armstrong, and Secretary C. F. Winter.

Mr. Wilmot read the following communication, which was transferred to the Secretary for record :—

"NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., 18th March, 1892.

"SAMUEL WILMOT, Esq.,
Chairman, Fisheries Commission.

"DEAR SIR,—We beg to direct your attention to the fact that the dam in connection with the Dominion hatchery is located upon Section 7, B. 5, N.R. 1 W. Mr. Alex. Miller, the present owner of the property wishes us to notify you that unless the Government is prepared to purchase the property the dam must be removed forthwith. Kindly advise us of your intentions in the matter, and oblige.

"Yours respectfully,

"(Sd.) RAND & MILLER,

"Real Estate Agents."

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, gentlemen ; I suppose we are ready for business. It is scarcely necessary for me to say, gentlemen, that what we do here to-day will be perfectly private and whatever conclusions we come to will be submitted to the Minister at Ottawa, and it will be for him to say whether they shall be made public or not.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Oh, yes ; keep it perfectly private—give nothing to the press at all. Now I think we might take up first the points on which we can agree at once.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I may say gentlemen, that yesterday I drew up a memorandum of matters here.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Oh, by the way, may I ask if you will receive an affidavit as evidence ? A man named Cassidy came to me and asked to put in an affidavit as evidence.

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh, yes ; we have his evidence—it was handed in the other day and I gave it to the Secretary to insert upon the Minutes. There have been one or two others also, and we have placed them upon record. Well, first of all gentlemen, if you will permit me, I will just read over the conclusions I have come to.

(Mr. Wilmot here read over his recommendations which are detailed further on.)

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, put in another paragraph that they shall not be allowed to destroy the dog-fish for the liver only. If they want to make oil from the fish, let them use the whole fish. You see, they kill the dog-fish just for the liver and throw the rest on the bank and let it lay there. There is just as much oil in the body and it does not require machinery to take it out.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well, we will put that down. Now, are there any other questions that you gentlemen would like to place upon the list, and we can discuss them specially afterwards ?

Mr. HIGGINS.—Perhaps you make a paragraph of that (handing in letter) in regard to that train of guano and eau-de-cologne ?

UNION CLUB, VICTORIA, B.C., 3rd March, 1892.

"MY DEAR Mr. HIGGINS,—Being much interested in the proceedings of the Fishery Commission now going on, and hearing from friend Rithet that you control the running of the car-load of eau de cologne necessary for the peaceable transportation of the Fraser River offal from the salmon canned, I hope you will not overlook an old friend anxious to carry that car-load of eau-de cologne, when shipped.

Yours very truly,

(Sd.) D. J. BROWN.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Then here is an analysis of that water at Cohiluthan Slough, that I took down the other day. I had it analyzed in Victoria by the Government Analyst, a very clever fellow :—

Analysis of Water.

“ Had a brown colour and unpleasant smell, re-action neutral.		
Total solid residue.....	143	grains per gal.
Solid inorganic matter.....	49	“
Solid organic matter.....	94	“
London Thames Companies.....	18.5	total solids per gal.
Manchester water supply.....	4.7	“
Glasgow, Loch Katrine.....	2.3	“
Sample of sewage.....	55.0	“
Chlorine existing as sodium chloride.....	31	grains per gal.
London Thames Companies.....	1.2	“
Tunbridge Wells.....	3.7	“
Sample of sewage.....	9.9	“
“.....	11.5	“
Free Ammonia representing principally vegetable organic matter.....	40	parts per mil.
Albuminoid Ammonia (animal matter).....	90	“
Free Ammonia. Alb. Ammonia.		
West Middlesex Water Co.....	.01	.07
Grand Junction Co.....	.01	.08
East London Co.....	.03	.09
Sample of sewage.....	16.20	.90
Harrowgate sewage.....	55.00	3.00

A slight examination under the microscope did not show any living organisms only occasional jelly like masses. As shown by the analysis the water is very bad, but whether it would be the cause of disease or not could be better shown by a careful microscopic examination.

(Signed,) H. CARMICHAEL,
Analyst for B. C.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, gentlemen, that goes through all correspondence I have received on the fisheries question during the last few days. Now, whatever matter you wish to take up first?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Oh, take up the first item.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes, take them seriatim.

Mr. WILMOT.—Then you think these clauses cover the ground generally?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes, oh yes, if there are others we can add them.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, then, the first clause is :—

1. That each canning establishment actually carrying on the canning industry shall be entitled to receive eighteen (18) boat licenses to fish as its maximum number, and that the fee payable for each such license shall be \$20.

(Continuing,) Now, I think a cannery getting licenses should be in actual operation. Suppose a man puts up a shell and does not work it but simply puts it up in order to get a certain number of licenses, he has an advantage over other parties, don't you think? It strikes me from the evidence and from what we hear from many canners that it was very unfair. The only man it would effect I fancy would be Mr. Ewen.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Did he not work the new one?

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh no, not at all. It is a fine building and with all conveniences but he has not set it going. Now, if we say that he, or any person situated like him shall get so many licenses for a non-working establishment, it gives him a certain advantage over others, therefore I put in the clause “canneries in actual operation” Mr. Higgins.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes.

Mr. WILMOT.—Do you think it is correct in the main?

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I think it is if we don't cut the licenses down too short so as to put the canners at the mercy of the fishermen.

Mr. WILMOT.—Then, there is another point to take into consideration this year—with the larger number of licenses given to the fishermen, the canners will be supplied with more fish than they ever had before. There will be four or five times the number of fishermen working than ever before, you know.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes, but as long as they don't be able to say you must pay so much for the fish.

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh, yes; but as long as the canners get a certain number they cannot be combined against.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—And don't you think if canners could get licenses for a non-working cannery, a man could put up many such and have an entire monopoly. Then you remember Mr. Johnston was very much opposed to it—I think they should be in actual operation.

Mr. WILMOT.—Yes, in actual operation—it is a matter between the canners solely. If they want to run the second establishment why they must just get their fish from the contractors, but I am satisfied this year they will have all the fish they want to work with. And also I think the fish will be reduced in value too.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes, and afterwards it will regulate itself—I think after this year fish will be very cheap. But how many licenses are you going to give?

Mr. WILMOT.—Ah, that is the question. Now, Mr. Johnston's evidence is very important on that point—his evidence was put in writing after giving his evidence in Victoria—I will just read from it:—

“For the information of the Commissioners, I beg to state in reply to the question which was addressed to me, viz.:—‘How many salmon were used for canning purposes and how many cases were packed with same at the Fraser River Cannery, Deas' Island, last season? that 80,745 salmon (sockeye) were supplied to the cannery and were used in packing 7,137 cases of 48 lb. tins each, being an average of $11\frac{2}{3}$ fish per case. A tin nominally 1 lb. contains more than a pound of fish—about $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. as an average.”

Well, now, taking that as data, gentlemen, I find that fifteen boats will produce the amount represented, at a catch of 5,000 fish to a boat, which I think is about a fair average. The canners ask for twenty five licenses, and here a man in his own calculation makes fifteen boats do it. Some say ten but I think that altogether out of the question. Now, taking everything into account, with the increased number of boats to be fished, I think twenty-five out of the question—ten I think too low—they should get a sufficient number to allow of them being fairly well supplied.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, perhaps some of these canneries might not use them—they might keep them as a reserve check—now, you should place enough licenses in their hands to be protected—I think they should get twenty five—I want to see them protected and also the fishermen protected.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, what is your opinion, Mr. Armstrong? I could hardly agree with you, Mr. Higgins.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, I have been thinking this matter over a good deal and have been talking with many people about it. Some say some years ten boats will catch all they can handle—then in a poor year fifteen will get enough and twenty will leave the canneries entirely independent of fishermen altogether. I don't want to see the fishermen entirely deprived of the means of selling their fish and so I think the figure should be placed somewhere between fifteen and twenty.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, but in a bad year they want more than their own boats—they often use more than their own boats—they should get a number so as to keep them not at the mercy of the fishermen.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, if you give them ten they would not be at the mercy of the fishermen.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Oh, well, but that would not do in a bad year; they would be at the mercy of the fisherman.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, but what makes me think 25 too many is that when the canners were in Ottawa they asked for 20, now they ask for more; perhaps next year 25 will not be enough.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, we should look at it from all sides and I certainly think we should protect the fishermen; if we give the canners all the licenses they want they have no use at all for the fishermen.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I think 25 licenses a fair number.

Mr. WILMOT.—And you say, Mr. Armstrong, between 15 and 20?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, there is quite a difference between you.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, what do you say yourself?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I will say 18—divide the matter up—18 licenses to be given to the canners. In this way we are only reducing them two from what they had before, and then the greater number of fishermen will enable them to get all the fish they want. It does not matter to me personally whether they get 15 or 50, but looking at it from a public stand-point, I think the fishermen should be thought of. I would not like to say the canners should get many less than they have had before, but these fishermen are all paying their \$20, and they should have a fair opportunity.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, call it 20 licenses and I will call it unanimous; I don't want to see this important industry put down.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—We don't want to effect it at all.

Mr. HIGGINS.—What do you say, Mr. Wilmot?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I could not go beyond 18.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, we will divide on the question. I cannot agree to curtail one of the most important industries we have here: I say 25.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I say 18.

Mr. WILMOT.—I say 18.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—And that number is more than any fisherman gave in his evidence as fair for them.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I don't see what the fishermen have to do with it. They are like trade associations everywhere; they have no sympathy with capital at all, while capital feeds them.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well then now. For the section with 18 boats—Messrs. Armstrong and Wilmot. Nay—Mr. Higgins, who requires 25 licenses. Now, for the second section.

Mr. WILMOT.—2. That each freezing establishment, actually engaged in the freezing and exporting of fish, shall be entitled to obtain not exceeding seven (7) licenses, and that the fee for each license shall be \$20. (Continuing.) Now, I understand that Port and others calling themselves freezers got 30 licenses, or were working 30 boats. Now, I don't think he is a freezer at all, but this section has to do with men putting up large establishments for freezing fish and shipping them east, and I think the business should be encouraged. There is only one person here engaged in the business that I know of, or perhaps two.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, the same thing applies to them as to canners, for if you give them all the boats they want they will not buy any fish from the fishermen.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, if I remember rightly, Mr. Armstrong, when we were at the establishment the other day that man said he did not care much about the licenses, as he could get all the fish he wanted. But, I think, as they were going to establish similar establishments on the Skeena, they should get a certain number of licenses.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, you might put it in this way, for each thoroughly equipped freezing establishment with a capacity of so much, or something of that kind, for he might say he was going to build at Skeena, Point Haney, and other places, and he might get so many licenses, and then not put the establishments up at all.

Mr. HIGGINS.—How many would you give each freezer?

Mr. WILMOT.—Suppose we gave them eight licenses?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—That is too much in proportion to what you have given the canners. They don't send forward as much fish as canners, and I think if you give them six or seven it would be all they want.

Mr. WILMOT.—Yes; but you must not confound the man who gets his fish and simply ships them in ice with the real freezer. One has simply to have but a mere shell of a building, if he so likes, while the other has to have air-lined walls, manufacture his ice, etc.; it is a very different matter.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, but we are talking now of the man who builds a proper freezer?

Mr. WILMOT.—Yes; persons actually engaged in freezing and exporting fish; what number would you say, Mr. Higgins?

Mr. HIGGINS.—Say seven, but do not let them sell their fish to the canners.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes; say seven licenses.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well; we will insert seven in the section and call it unanimous.

Mr. WILMOT.—Now, Section 3.

3. That each establishment engaged in the actual business of shipping or exporting fish in ice, or otherwise, but not in the manner of freezing or canning, shall be entitled to obtain not exceeding three (3) licenses, at a fee of \$20 each license.

(Continuing.) These are persons shipping fish in loose ice. The expense of putting up a place for carrying on this business is very small compared with the other. Now what do you gentlemen suggest?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, you suggested the other, what do you say?

Mr. WILMOT.—I would say 4.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I say 3.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I say 3, I want to encourage our fishermen.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well, we will make it unanimous, 3 licenses.

4. That each and every local trader or dealer in fish for home consumption, in cities, towns, or country, actually engaged in such traffic, shall be entitled to obtain not exceeding two (2) licenses at a fee of \$20, each license.

Mr. WILMOT.—Now this is for persons who have a shop or market, they do not export or freeze fish nor do they fish themselves, but they may have boats.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—2 boats are enough to supply a market.

Mr. WILMOT.—Do you all say 2?

Mr. HIGGINS.—These are traders in cities, towns, or country?

Mr. WILMOT.—Yes.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Very well, 2 licenses.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, unanimously 2 licenses.

5. That all bona fide fishermen being British subjects and actual residents of the province shall be entitled to obtain one (1) license to fish, upon payment of the sum of \$20 for such license.

Mr. WILMOT.—I think that is unanimous, one license to all.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I would make the fee less, say \$15.

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh well, it has been \$20, I do not think it would do to lessen it.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Very well, leave it at \$20, but those poor fishermen of whom you are so considerate, is it not a high figure for them.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Oh, yes, but it has been \$20, leave it at \$20.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well, that is unanimous then, \$20.

6. That every actual resident settler (with his family residing with him), shall be entitled to obtain one (1) license to fish, upon payment of \$2 for the same, and shall be permitted to fish in any of the waters of British Columbia, except in any prescribed limits at the mouths of rivers or streams, or during the close times, every such settler shall be a British subject and such license will only permit of fishing for family use, but not for sale or barter.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I think, although the fee is only \$2 you might make it less, I think a man should be able to fish in front of his own land.

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh well, it is simply a regulation, the fee is made small and is simply to control them, in fact they ask for it themselves.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I would strike out the part about the family.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, I want to prevent half-breeds and others going up river and squatting anywhere and calling themselves settlers when they really are not, they have no families nor do they own land.

Mr. WILMOT.—Then you see Mr. Higgins, this applies to up the river, beyond where the ordinary commercial fishermen cannot fish; whereas the settler can fish anywhere. Then this regulation gives a sort of control over them.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I think you had better let that go Mr. Higgins, it would not do to let everybody fish for their own use. They could not all get a net and boat, and they cost money, and if a man has a family he will be more careful not to run the chances of being fined, etc.

Mr. WILMOT.—Yes, I think, Mr. Higgins, that you had better let that go.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Very well, I will take your experience for it.

Mr. WILMOT.—That is agreed then, Sec. 6 unanimous.

7. That the regular annual close time for salmon fishing in any of the rivers, or streams of British Columbia, shall be from the 1st of October to the 1st March following in every year.

That the weekly close time for fishing for salmon or other fish in the waters of British Columbia shall be from 6 o'clock on every Saturday till 12 o'clock midnight on the following Sunday.

Mr. WILMOT.—Now, in the recommendations of persons giving evidence in this matter they say the use of 5½ inch mesh shall prevail from 1st March to 25th August. But at the present time they do not use 5½ but 7½. Now they say a close season from 1st November to 1st March, but the spawning is not over by 1st November. I think you can all see the propriety of having an annual close season, because after the operations of the canneries are over, when these fish are caught with spawn running out of their bodies, a disgusting fish is being put upon the market. Then as regards the Sunday close time; now, I believe it should be up to 12 o'clock Sunday—I think the whole Sunday should be kept.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, in that case you see the canneries would have no work on Monday morning.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes, but I think there is another point we should look at. The canneries have been used to hiring Indians, and while that is all very well, you must remember they take the place of whitemen, and although they are got cheaper, still it is a fact that the whitemen are in the long run cheaper, because the whitemen will go out at any time whereas the Indians will not. Now if the Indians are paid by the piece—as a rule they will bring in a good many salmon, but if they are paid by the day they know just how many fish it will take to pay their wages, and so you will not get many fish. Now, I would put it either that there should be no Sunday work at all, or I would leave it as it is now—if there is a full run of fish on Monday they will have them in by noon and there is plenty of time to put them up.

Mr. WILMOT.—Then the Indians have religious scruples they tell me—by the way what time do you have daylight here?

Mr. HIGGINS.—Oh, it is nearly daylight all night. I think I would not advocate any change in the Sunday close time.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I go strongly on having all day Sunday as a day of rest—I may say, Mr. Higgins, that I have noticed more inclination in British Columbia to break Sunday than in any other province in the Dominion, and now I see that Parliament is going to be asked to pass an Act that at the Canadian Government Exhibit at the World's Fair all shall be closed on Sunday.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, but I think if we put it at 3 or 4 o'clock on Monday morning—how would that do?

Mr. HIGGINS.—Pshaw—3 or 4 o'clock Monday morning? why you don't want them to catch fish at all.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Oh, well; it is no use trying to persuade me that they cannot put up fish on Saturday—I know they could do it if they liked but they want all day Saturday and Sunday to themselves.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, but the cannery asked themselves to have the close time Saturday and Sunday down to Monday, at 6 a. m. Then it was reduced to 6 p. m., Sunday.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, probably it did not work well that way and so was changed.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, for three or four years they asked to have it made at six o'clock Monday morning; then they asked that it be changed back to Sunday evening. Now, if they were satisfied with 6 a. m., Monday, for several years, 12 midnight Sunday would be no hardship.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, if they didn't know what they wanted, I think we should establish a rule for them; I say make it Monday morning.

Mr. WILMOT.—I certainly think all the Sunday should be kept, especially as you are trying here to christianize the Indians, and I do not think as a people we should allow this bad example to remain.

Mr. HIGGINS.—It will be hard work christianizing them, I fear. (Laughter.) Well, what do you say, Mr. Wilnot? From when till when?

Mr. WILMOT.—From 12 o'clock Saturday, if you choose, to 6 o'clock Monday morning.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I would say from 6 o'clock Saturday morning until 3 o'clock Monday morning.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, but I don't think you will stop Sunday work around the canneries, no matter what you do; you might as well try to stop work on sailing vessels at sea, making sail, reefing, etc.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, here is another view of the matter; there is going to be such an increase of fishing that the fish should, I think, get the advantage of it. Now there is going to be, I fancy, nearly a thousand licenses issued this year, and these will certainly sweep off the greater number of fish that come in; so you see they might fairly be given the advantage of an extended weekly close time. Well, what do you say, Mr. Armstrong?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I say 6 o'clock Saturday morning to 3 o'clock Monday morning.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I will go with you, Mr. Chairman, and call it 12 o'clock Sunday night.

Mr. WILMOT.—Now, cannot we make it unanimous, Mr. Armstrong?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Very well; I do not want to be too obstinate; say 12 o'clock Sunday.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Now, on the first paragraph of that section 7, I would prefer being placed on record as wishing to defer my opinion until I have read the evidence. You see I have not had the advantages of you gentlemen in being present at all the sessions, so I would like to give my views on that part of the section later on.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well; what do you say, Mr. Armstrong? Do you agree with the leading paragraph?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Oh, yes; I think that is all right.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well; we will say: Ayes—Messrs. Armstrong and Wilnot, and that Mr. Higgins defers his opinion until he has had an opportunity to read the evidence.

8. That the limitation for the size of mesh of salmon nets and the period in which such sized nets shall be used, shall be as follows:

A net with a 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch mesh for capturing spring salmon to be used from March 1st to August 15th. A net with a mesh not less than 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch mesh for sockeye, coho, or other salmon, may be used only between 1st July and 1st October. The above meshes are extension measure.

Mr. WILMOT.—This is for catching spring salmon only.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Is that all right?

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh, yes; I think so.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—But would not 15th July be sufficient?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, it would only effect the freezers; you know they cannot catch sockeye with the big net.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—No; they cannot catch sockeye with the big net.

Mr. HIGGINS.—But suppose a run of sockeye came in?

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh, well, they cannot fish for sockeye very well; you see the net is different and they do not begin to fish for sockeyes until July, the latter end of July.

Mr. HIGGINS.—But if they do come they can use them. Is not that so?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, but I don't think they come in so early; they have been caught later every year; they are not caught for canning until about the 15th or 20th of July.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Still, is it intended to prohibit the use of smaller mesh? I fancy I have heard of the coho being caught for canning in September or October.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Oh, no; not to any extent.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Mr. Winter, have you that canners' testimonial? If you have, please let me see it.

The Secretary handed the memorial to Mr. Higgins.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, at any rate, gentlemen, you see during these spawning times fishing should be prohibited, because, if fish are then caught, foul fish are being put upon the market.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Oh, well, they don't do that; after the 1st of September the sockeye will not suit the market.

Mr. WILMOT.—No; but if they are caught and frozen and sent on in that way, then it is stocking the market with a poor fish.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes; when they are thawed out they are a poor fish.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, from the weight of evidence presented, all salmon spawn about the same time, and any salmon caught in rivers after September is not fit for food. Of course, if caught in the sea, it is different; but in the rivers they are a soft flabby body, and of no use for food. Now, the $7\frac{3}{4}$ -inch mesh is for spring salmon, and they should be caught between 1st March and 15th August; after that they are not caught. Then with $5\frac{3}{4}$ -inch for sockeyes and cohoes, and all other salmon, from 1st July to 1st October.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, would you mind laying over that matter until I look over the evidence; I would prefer that.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well, but you see from the Order in Council the $5\frac{3}{4}$ -inch mesh is established for sockeye and the canners themselves asked that $7\frac{3}{4}$ should be established for the spring salmon.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Very well; we will lay that over.

9. That all licenses so obtained shall not be transferable under any conditions whatever, without the consent in writing from the Department of Fisheries.

Mr. WILMOT.—I think that is unanimous; it is fair all round.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Oh, yes.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Is it understood that no one but genuine fishermen shall get a license? No watchmakers, saloon-keepers, or others?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, it is the intention that none but fishermen shall get fishermen's licenses. In section 5 we say all "*bona fide* fishermen, British subjects."

Mr. HIGGINS.—Very well, I think section 9 is all right.

10. That the tidal boundaries for all, or any fishing for commercial purposes connected with canning, freezing or exporting of salmon, shall be at Pitt River and at a line across the Fraser River at Whonnack Creek, above these two points on the Pitt and Fraser Rivers, netting or fishing for commercial purposes, as above described, is forbidden.

Mr. WILMOT.—You see, Mr. Higgins, the limit has been, as per this map in the departmental report for 1890, up to Hammond and Pitt River Bridge.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, was this ever enforced?

Mr. WILMOT.—No, but it has been substantially admitted by all. Now what we desire is to have all the body of the river and upper waters for spawning purposes, and to place the limit on the main river at Whonnack Creek, there is no commercial fishing beyond there, is there Mr. Armstrong?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes, up to the Mission.

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh yes, I recollect, we had a letter about that, some one was catching fish and supplying the C.P.R. Now I think it would be most desirable to have all these upper waters for the benefit of the fish. There is no fishing beyond Mission now, and you will see the propriety of establishing a fair boundary.

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Mr. HIGGINS.—There is no fishing in Pitt River at all now is there?

Mr. WILMOT.—No; none at all, this has been kept entire and we keep planting young fish there all the time. Well, what shall we call it? Shall we say that section defining the limit at Pitt Bridge and Whonnack's Creek is unanimous?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Oh yes.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Very well.

11. The use of seines for capturing fish of any description is wholly forbidden at the mouths of all rivers or streams within certain limits thereof as may be laid down by the Department of Fisheries.

Mr. HIGGINS.—They do not use seines down here do they?

Mr. ARMSTRONG. No.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, they say they cannot catch any fish up in the northern rivers without them.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—They fished out the Victoria Harbour for you.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, yes, but as a matter of fact the packers should never have been permitted to go up to these northern rivers and start establishments if now they are to be deprived of the only way in which they can catch fish for their factories.

Mr. WILMOT. Well, I am sure, Mr. Higgins, if you had had the experience I have had in the use of seines in the east you would feel very decided about their pernicious effects.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I would not agree with that section, for I am satisfied if the men up there could catch fish without a seine they would not use it.

Mr. WILMOT. Well, but in that very river you mean the great decrease in the catch there is the most cogent reason for preventing seining in my opinion.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, but they cannot catch them at all with anything else.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—What does the statute say on that point?

Mr. WILMOT. Well, the British Columbia Regulations say "the use of seines is forbidden within the waters of British Columbia," (O.C. 7th Nov., 1890.) In large rivers like the Fraser and Skeena the principal fishing is now carried on right out in the estuary with drift nets now to interfere with drift nets at the mouths of rivers would be very injudicious, but when you come to these small rivers where drift nets might just as well be used, the regulations say these seines shall not be used.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I thought Mr. Spencer's evidence was very clear on that point, where he stated that they could not catch fish at all unless they used these seines.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well you see these seines are not used elsewhere they are most destructive appliances, even drifting for salmon is allowed only in your province, it is not permitted elsewhere.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Now, about the one-third of the channel—Subsection 8 of section 8 of the Fisheries Act reads "so as to obstruct more than one-third of the width of any river." Now, that must be somewhat mixed, because I have always understood that it was the one-third that was to be left open. Now, how is this? that would mean that two-thirds was to be left open—I never understood it that way.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, Mr. Secretary, just take a note of that, and we will have it looked into. I do not understand the matter—I always understood that it was the third that was to be kept open—we will have it looked into Mr. Higgins.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, about the seines, I would like to make a reservation in favour of the Ninkish River—I know Mr. Spencer has told me often that they could not catch any fish at all with the gill nets and he had tried it often.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, but look at the decrease in their catch there for the past six years. Then, Mr. Mowat was instructed to take eggs up there and they were taken up and what has become of them? I don't know, but they were asked for on account of the river having become depleted. The representations were that the river had declined and fallen off very much, and then since that according to the published returns of the catch it has much further fallen off, and if Mr. Earle or any one else will only look at the real reason, they will see that this seining is the real cause of it. Mr. Earle when down last year was very anxious about it, and the Minister went into the matter thoroughly and said the thing was so clear that they were destroying their own river.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Oh, well; but the decrease has only been for a year or two, and I don't know as that has been the cause. I would vote for the resolution making a reservation in favour of the Ninkish, until I get further evidence. I do not want to go it blind until I get full information.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, what do you say, Mr. Armstrong?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—This is of course a recommendation to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to change the law.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I don't know as it is exactly.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, I don't know as I can consistently ask the Minister to exempt one river—I am satisfied that seines are injurious and should be not allowed.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, as far as I am concerned, I am quite satisfied with the section—no rivers should be exempted.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, you might let that section lay over—I cannot agree to it at any rate until I get further information.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, leave it until later.

12. That there shall be no discrimination with regard to the numbers of licenses, nor the fees payable for the same, for canners or others throughout the waters of British Columbia.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes, no discrimination. Oh, but what about the Skeena River? What are the reasons they give for a continuation of the present discrimination in fees—there they pay but \$5 now I believe, while here the rate is \$20.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, on the Skeena they say there is no hatchery while there is one here—while here they complain there is more competition than up north and the license here should be as low, or the same figure as theirs.

Mr. HIGGINS.—What number of licenses were held by canneries up north last year—can you tell, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. WILMOT.—There were 300 licenses on the Skeena—200 to canners and 100 to outsiders.

Mr. HIGGINS.—How many canneries were there?

Mr. WILMOT.—Eight or nine.

Mr. HIGGINS.—And what do they pay for their licenses?

Mr. WILMOT.—Five dollars. And these people down here all unanimously declare that the fees should be made the same.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, but there is the hatchery here—that is quite an item.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, but they have a corresponding advantage up there—they do not have the same competition.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—And then fish run much more regularly on the Skeena than here.

Mr. HIGGINS.—What do the fishermen pay here?

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh, they all pay \$20 for the past three years. I have no doubt that the northern men will make a fuss about it, but you can bring up the evidence from canners themselves.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, put me down that there should be no discrimination in the licenses nor fees, except in the case of northern canneries, where the fee should remain as heretofore.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I agree with the resolution that there should be no discrimination in the license fees.

13. That the throwing of fish offal or dead fish, saw-dust, mill rubbish, or any deleterious substance into the rivers, or other waters frequented by fish, is alike injurious to these waters, and to the inhabitants residing along the same, and therefore, the laws relating to the prevention of offal and deleterious substances being thrown into such waters, should be enforced in the interests of the community at large.

Mr. WILMOT.—Now, I go in for that, because I go upon the principle of it being correct and being enforced anywhere else. What do you say, Mr. Higgins?

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I am under the impression that if the offal was towed out to deep water—out to the deep channel of the river, it would pass out to sea and do no damage at all; but, if left near the canneries, I would not allow it at all.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I have been much surprised in getting evidence from fishery officers—for we have had another Commission, or investigation, since last with you—in

regard to the old way of cribbing the offal. That was a fearful practice, they say, much worse even than letting it go as now.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I think if it was towed out into the stream, it would do no damage, but this thing of dumping it down near the canneries, I would not allow.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, now, is it not a question whether we are doing justice to all parties in allowing this offal to be thrown away? Now, you know the dog-fish are plentiful, and they catch them just for the livers. Now, if they would put up oils, fertilizers, etc., out of this offal, could not a most merchantable article be made?

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, but they say who have tried it, that it does not pay. Mr. Ladner says that he cannot get rid of the article.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, here is Tom Cunningham, in giving his evidence states he could take twenty tons of it. Now, why don't Ladner say I will give it to you for \$10—why could they not sell it cheaper to introduce it? Certainly, the oil is very profitable at 35 cents a gallon, for that is all dog-fish oil is worth, and even supposing they do lose \$200 or \$300 for a year or two until this business is put on a good footing, I don't think we would be doing right to let all this matter and good material be thrown away. Then, if put in near the canneries, how can you expect it to float away?

Mr. HIGGINS.—Oh, yes, it floats away, and then a great deal of it is eaten up. Then, you know, two flood tides go out each day.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—But another tide comes in and it all comes back again. I think if you don't let them throw it away they will find some means of getting rid of it.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I cannot see any use in piling obligations upon these people, they have tried the oil factory but it has not been successful.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, but here, take the two canneries up here, are you going to make them go to the expense of getting scows and taking it out to the deep water when they might be making good use of it? Now, that Frenchman down there who has been running the oil factory, he says it pays.

Mr. HIGGINS.—But how does he know? Tom Ladner says it does not pay, he is very positive about it and he ought to know if any one does, for he advanced the money, I understand. How would the Frenchman know anything about the financial part of the scheme?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, of course, the prohibition of putting in offal is a thing that is law now anyway, so whatever we do it will simply be a recommendation to the Minister.

Mr. WILMOT.—I am sorry our Secretary has not had time to get the evidence of Mr. Arthur written up, his statement and the evidence given by that delegation that came up from Ladner's was to my mind very conclusive.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I don't think so at all, it is a very dirty hole down there anyway.

Mr. WILMOT.—Then we had a very sensible man in Victoria who in giving his evidence stated that he had left the place (the Delta) on account of the injury from this offal.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, he left his boys there anyway.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, gentlemen, let us get down to the point, of course you know my opinions pretty well, I think this should not be allowed to be thrown into the water at all. I would be very sorry to give any opinion that would militate against the canners, but I have had several conversations with representative cannerymen, Mr. Wadhams, Mr. English, and several others; and I have said this country is getting more populated all the while, and you had better make some arrangement about this offal before you are actually forced to, but they will not take any steps as long as they are allowed to go on as they have been doing. Then our cod fishermen say the offal and entrails of fish put in the water spoilt their fishing grounds and so they bring them ashore now and bury them. Then again we have the evidence right here in Vancouver Harbour, that the offal thrown in from an oil factory, offal of herring, etc., has driven the herring away from the harbour altogether. Now these are glaring examples and should be thought over.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—And if you take this offal all out into deep water after a time you will soon have no salmon at all coming in here.

Mr. HIGGINS.—How about the quantities of dead salmon up the river, is not that just as bad, or rather infinitely worse?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, gentlemen, I think there is no use discussing the matter further. I think, Mr. Higgins, you will have to be in a minority in this.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, what is it you propose?

Mr. WILMOT.—I will re-read the section. (Read over section 13.)

Mr. HIGGINS.—What is the penalty now under the Statute for putting in this offal?

Mr. WILMOT.—Not exceeding \$100 for each and every offence. I think, however, the close of this section would mean only the ordinary penalty coming under the general penalties of the Act—not exceeding \$20 for each offence, but you see it means every offence—it can be doubled as often as you like. It is really a question in my mind which penalty would apply—perhaps the \$20, because it could be renewed every time the offal was thrown in.

Mr. HIGGINS.—You admit there is no possibility of burying the offal, I suppose.

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh, yes; it could not be buried—the only other way, I think, would be to cremate it. But the way I look at it, I think a small sum from each canner, say \$25 would erect an establishment for providing for this matter.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, but you see here is the law (showing Fisheries Act Sec., 15)—it can be buried ashore or put in perforated boxes—now these people have been simply carrying out the law.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I must say I am not prepared to give an opinion on that subject.

Mr. HIGGINS.—And the Act goes on to say, “the Minister of Marine and Fisheries may exempt from the operation of this subsection, wholly or partially, any stream or streams in respect to which he considers that its enforcement is not requisite in the public interest.” (Sec. 15, ss. 2.)

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh, yes; he can do that, and if your political representatives can bring sufficient influence to bear upon him, why we cannot do anything, but as far as we are concerned, we must give our opinion irrespective of that. Now, what do you say, gentlemen, is this clause of our report carried?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Wait a moment, don't be in a hurry—let us see what the law says.

I don't think this perforated box applies to the fisheries of the Fraser River—I think it applies to the deep-sea fisheries—of course, you must understand that this is simply a recommendation to the Minister, and I would not recommend anything that I did not think could be carried out.

Mr. WILMOT.—Then the resolution stands Yea?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes.

Mr. HIGGINS.—No, I do not agree to it—I say that the offal should be thrown into the swift water of the river so as to float out to sea.

14. That it would be expedient for the improvement of the fisheries in British Columbia that additional fish hatcheries to the one now in existence should be built in well selected localities on the upper branches of the Fraser River—the evidence before this Commission being largely given in this line.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Unanimous—I was simply delighted with the hatchery when I went up to see it and I have never ceased to tell people what a splendid thing it is. I tell you it opened my eyes.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes, unanimous—we want more of them.

15. That the great destruction of herring now practised to supply a few crude oileries on the coast and elsewhere should be prevented by departmental enactments and thus avoid the too great and rapid depletion of an important factor as bait for carrying on deep-sea fisheries of the British Columbia coast in the future.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, you will have to count me out of that, because I have not seen any evidence on that point, and cannot give any opinion.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, what do you say, Mr. Armstrong?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, I think that is quite right—I don't think the herring should be destroyed for the oil alone.

Mr. WILMOT.—And you, Mr. Higgins, defer your opinion not having read the evidence.

Mr. HIGGINS. Yes, sir; I do.

16. That the halibut fisheries on the coast of British Columbia, now assuming great importance from the successes which have attended the catches lately made and their introduction into the markets of Boston and elsewhere on the Atlantic coast, demand the husbanding care of the Government for the advancement of this new industry, which bids fair to give additional wealth to the inhabitants of British Columbia.

Mr. HIGGINS.—All right—yes, I agree to that.

Mr. WILMOT.—And you, Mr. Armstrong?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes, that is quite all right.

Mr. WILMOT.—There is no doubt your halibut fishery is destined to be of great value here; your fish are so sweet and luscious.

17. That the inclination on the part of the fishermen is to increase the killing capacity of the drift net by giving it greater depth than appears necessary for fairly legitimate fishing, and as the depth as shown now varies from 30 to 60 meshes; and in order to place all fishermen upon the same footing in their fishing operations, and to guard against the too excessive destruction of the salmon, the drift net for sockeyes should be limited to a depth not exceeding 50 meshes.

Mr. HIGGINS.—What is the depth now?

Mr. WILMOT.—They run from 30 to 50 meshes, practically making them a seine for all intents and purposes.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Are not most of them 40 meshes deep now?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, no, I think not. I may mention the reason I put this clause in is because I got a letter from our inspector of fisheries this morning, and it seems the fishermen feel very much on this point. You see, a fisherman starts down with a 60-mesh net, and he floats down to where others have only 35 or 40 meshes, and so one will have 20 feet of net in depth and the other only 10, so you see the advantage of the one is obvious. Now, with a limit of 50 meshes they will be fishing with an equality of 16 feet of net and will all be on the same footing.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes; but I have heard no evidence on that—would it not be better to say the limit shall not exceed 50 meshes?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, I have that in now.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Still, that is another point upon which I cannot give an opinion without further information. When do you leave, Mr. Wilmot?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, just as soon as I can get away.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Oh, well, there will be two or three points upon which I can write you.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—What is the length of the net now?

Mr. WILMOT.—150 fathoms.

Mr. HIGGINS.—What are the nets in the east?

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh, well, they fish with nets 6 feet deep generally.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I will be able to write you on this, after I have looked over the evidence.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, what do you say, Mr. Armstrong?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, I have no objection to it, as I think the majority of nets are 40 meshes now.

Mr. HIGGINS.—I defer my judgment—well, call it 60 meshes and I will vote for it now off hand.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I don't think the cannery will use those long nets, only the greedy fellows that want to fish for the spring fish. I will go in for 50 meshes.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I will defer my opinion until I have looked over the evidence on the matter. Of course, you will understand I have not had the same opportunity of hearing all the evidence as you two gentlemen have, and am, therefore, on many little points somewhat in the dark.

18. That doubts having arisen with regard to the actual meaning of subsection 8 of section 8, chapter 95, of the Revised Statutes of Canada, it is desirable, in the interests of river fishing in British Columbia, with reference to leaving portions of the river free from fishing, that not more than one-third of the river should be left open.

Mr. WILMOT.—Now, we have laid over some matters.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, the first part of section 7 I will have to look over before I can give an opinion, also section 8 and sections 11, 15 and 17.

Mr. WILMOT.—Now, what other matters have you to bring up?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—About the dog-fish.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, while we are on the salmon fishery, let us understand, if possible about the channel of the river.

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh, yes; you say that doubts having arisen as to the meaning of the Statute as to keeping open one-third of the channel? Subsection 8 of section 8 of the Fisheries Act—now it is desirable, in the interests of river fishing in British Columbia, with reference to leaving portions of the river free from fishing, that not more than one-third of the river should be left open?

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes; that will fetch it.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes; not more than one-third.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Now, Mr. Armstrong, the dog-fish.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes; I want to prevent the killing of dog-fish for the livers only.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Do they kill many?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Oh, yes; they get thousands of gallons of oil every year, and they just take the livers out of the fish and throw the body of the fish on the bank.

Mr. HIGGINS.—What do they use it for—that is the oil?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—For lubricating purposes; it is used very much in the saw-mills, etc. It is very much like the salmon oil, but if they want to use the fish for oil they should use all the fish.

Mr. HIGGINS.—But could they not make manure of the rest of it?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes.

Mr. HIGGINS.—But it has never paid?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Oh, but they should throw that offal in the deep water.

Mr. HIGGINS.—What do they do with it?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—They throw it on the bank and leave it there.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, now, see if this will suit your idea:

1. That the system now prevailing along the coast of killing vast quantities of dog-fish expressly for the use of the livers of said fish for oil purposes only should be discontinued, unless the bodies of these fish are utilized in the same manner.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes; that is all right.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes; that will cover it first rate.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, sirs, what next?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, we have provided for the canners, the freezers, the exporters of fresh fish in ice and the fishermen, but have we provided for the salters of salmon?

Mr. WILMOT.—Yes; I was thinking of them—they ought to come in the list too, I think.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—The thing is now whether we should encourage the salting of fish when there is such a demand for the fresh fish.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, there are persons engaged in that line, are there not?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I don't think there is any one engaged in it here unless when there is a surplus of fish.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, say we give them one license—my own impression is no one will go into the business of salting fish unless they cannot do anything else with them—it is generally an inferior article, salt fish of any kind.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, rather than have any trouble, if a man is going to make a business of it he should get two licenses anyway.

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, but the parties who will apply for them then will be the freezers.

Mr. HIGGINS.—But do not some of these canneries salt sometimes?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—They do when they have an over-plus of fish.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I think any one making a special business of it, either salters or smokers, should have a couple of licenses, but not to smokers or salters—not two to a man because he is a salter and two more because he is a smoker, say salter and smoker to each.

Mr. WILMOT.—Very well, we will say two each to salters and smokers—now, how does this read?

20. That salters and smokers of fish who carry on this specialty in curing fish for domestic or foreign markets, and not engaged in the fishing business in any other way, may be entitled to obtain two licenses upon the payment of a fee for each license of \$20.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes; that suits it all right.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes.

Mr. WILMOT.—Now, none can complain that they did not all have a chance.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Now, there is another point which I suppose comes within our province to speak about, viz.: the number of guardians on the river. I think there should be another steun launch and that there should be sufficient additional guardians to properly enforce the law.

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh, yes; that is a point on which we may very well express ourselves—a very important one too. How will this suit:—

21. That a suggestion is made to the department, for the advisability for further protection of the fisheries, that a sufficient number of additional guardians should be appointed to enforce the fishery laws.

Now, is that unanimously agreed to?

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes.

Mr. WILMOT.—Now, gentlemen, what next?

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, I would recommend that we suggest to the department the propriety of introducing shad and lobster to these Pacific waters.

Mr. WILMOT.—Hear, hear.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, before we leave the Fraser River, I think we should recommend that measures be taken to get the spawn for the hatcheries out of the early runs of fish. I think taking them from the late fish is the reason why we are getting later runs of fish every year. I may, of course, be wrong, it is a theory of mine.

Mr. WILMOT.—Would this cover both sockeye and spring salmon?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, you are only cultivating the sockeye as yet, but if the other fish are to be cultivated, I think it should also apply to them—I think you would have more chance of getting better fish and earlier runs.

Mr. WILMOT.—Then, will this recommendation cover it?

22. That it is expedient in the interests of the Fraser River fisheries that the early runs of the quinnat and sockeye salmon should be captured from which to obtain their ova for artificial breeding in the hatcheries.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes; that covers it.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes; but do you consider the spring salmon a desirable fish?

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Oh well, it covers both of them.

Mr. WILMOT.—Yes; some people say they want the sockeye and then many say they want the spring salmon—the freezers, for instance.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Does it take more capital to set up a freezer than a cannery?

Mr. WILMOT.—Well, that is a question—you see if they go into this business extensively they will have to get vessels provided with cold storage, etc., and it will be a very costly matter.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Well, now, Mr. Higgins, you were about suggesting something when I interrupted you.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Oh yes: about the lobster and shad.

Mr. WILMOT.—Yes; you think they should be introduced on this coast?—A. I think that is a good idea.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well don't you think it would have some effect?

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh yes; I think so decidedly.

Mr. SECRETARY.—There is just one matter gentlemen, if I may remind you of it, I don't think you have any recommendation about oysters yet.

Mr. WILMOT.—That is a good idea, however, I had a note of it.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Well, you had better include the reference to oysters in the same resolution regarding the shad and lobster.

Mr. WILMOT.—All right; well now, how will this do?

23. That the introduction of shad, oysters and lobsters into the waters of British Columbia from the Atlantic coast, is most desirable, and that the Department of Fisheries be requested to institute such means as will bring about this most desirable enterprise.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Hear, hear, that will cover it.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes that is all right.

Mr. WILMOT.—But we have not said a word about oyster culture here.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Oh, well, I think that is pretty well covered—if there are any other little points you may add them.

Mr. WILMOT.—Oh well, but it will just take a minute—now how will this read:—

24. That whereas the native oyster is found in some localities along the British Columbian coast and as they are becoming rapidly decimated by the action of a few fishermen and Indians regardless of consequences, it is desirable that the Fisheries department should take speedy action to prevent their extermination by establishing proper close seasons and encouraging persons who may be desirous of entering into the business of oyster culture.

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes; that will do first rate.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—Yes.

Mr. WILMOT.—Then gentlemen, do you all agree to these as our recommendations and our report—these recommendations from 1 to 24 inclusive, that we have just gone over?

Mr. HIGGINS.—Yes; except those sections or clauses which I am to consider and give my opinion after reading more evidence than I have done as yet, etc.

Mr. Wilmot, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Higgins then duly signed the report in the order named.

The Chairman declared the Commission finally adjourned at 6 p.m.

CHARLES F. WINTER,
Secretary.

BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES COMMISSION.

FINAL REPORT.

In the matter of the Royal Fisheries Commission, duly appointed by the Dominion Government of Canada, for investigating into matters relating to the salmon fisheries of the Fraser River, and likewise the salmon and other fisheries of the province of British Columbia, said Commission being composed of the Honourable D. W. Higgins, of Victoria; Mr. Sheriff Armstrong, of New Westminster, and Samuel Wilmot, of Ottawa.

Evidence being taken under oath from numerous parties in relation to the subject of the fisheries at the cities of New Westminster, Victoria, Vancouver and Nanaimo, the following conclusions have been come to on the subjects contained in the several paragraphs herein, which are numerically written, and are recommended for adoption by the Fisheries Department of Canada, for the conservation and maintenance of the fishing industries of the province of British Columbia. The recommendations are as follows:—

1. That each canning establishment, actually carrying on the canning industry, shall be entitled to receive eighteen (18) boat licenses to fish as its maximum number, and that the fee payable for each such license shall be \$20.

Ayes—Messrs. Armstrong and Wilmot; Nay—Mr. Higgins (requiring twenty-five licenses).

Carried—eighteen boats.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

2. That each freezing establishment, actually engaged in the freezing and exporting of fish, shall be entitled to obtain not exceeding seven (7) licenses, and that the fee for each license shall be \$20.

Unanimously agreed to.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

3. That each establishment engaged in the actual business of shipping or exporting fish in ice, or otherwise, but not in the manner of freezing or canning, shall be entitled to obtain not exceeding three (3) licenses, at a fee of \$20 each license.

Unanimously agreed to.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

4. That each and every local trader or dealer in fish for home consumption, in cities, towns, or country, actually engaged in such traffic, shall be entitled to obtain not exceeding two (2) licenses, at a fee of \$20 each license.

Unanimously agreed to.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

5. That all *bond fide* fishermen, being British subjects and actual residents of the province, shall be entitled to obtain one (1) license to fish, upon payment of the sum of \$20 for such license.

Unanimously agreed to.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

6. That every actual resident settler (with his family residing with him), shall be entitled to obtain one (1) license to fish, upon payment of \$2 for the same, and shall be permitted to fish in any of the waters of British Columbia, except in any prescribed limits at the mouths of rivers, or streams, or during the close times—every such settler shall be a British subject, and such license will only permit of fishing for family use, but not for sale or barter.

Unanimously agreed to.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

7. That the regular annual close time for salmon fishing in any of the rivers or streams of British Columbia, shall be from the 1st October to the 1st March following in every year.

That the weekly close time for fishing for salmon or other fish in the waters of British Columbia shall be from 6 o'clock a. m., on every Saturday till 12 o'clock midnight on the following Sunday.

On the 1st paragraph of above section :

Ayes.—Messrs. Armstrong and Wilmot.

Mr. Higgins not having had an opportunity of going over all the evidence, and not being present at many of the sessions of the Commission, deferred his opinion on the paragraph until he had time to consider it.

The 2nd paragraph was agreed to unanimously.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

8. That the limitation for the size of mesh of salmon nets and the period in which such sized nets shall be used, shall be as follows :

A net with a 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch mesh for capturing spring salmon, to be used from March 1st to August 15th. A net with a mesh not less than 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch mesh for sockeye, coho, or other salmon, may be used only between the 1st July and the 1st October. The above meshes are extension measure.

Yeas.—Messrs. Armstrong and Wilmot.

Mr. Higgins deferred judgment until he had time to read the evidence.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

9. That all licenses so obtained shall not be transferable under any conditions whatever, without the consent in writing from the Department of Fisheries.

Unanimously agreed to.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

10. That the tidal boundaries for all or any fishing for commercial purposes connected with canning, freezing or exporting of salmon, shall be at Pitt River, and at a line across the Fraser River at Whonnack Creek. Above these two points on the Pitt and Fraser Rivers, netting or fishing for commercial purposes, as above described, is forbidden.

Unanimously agreed to.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

11. The use of seines for capturing fish of any description is wholly forbidden at the mouths of all rivers or streams within certain limits thereof, as may be laid down by the Department of Fisheries.

Yeas.—Messrs. Armstrong and Wilmot.

Mr. Higgins reserved his judgment until he had time to obtain further information on the subject.

12. That there shall be no discrimination with regard to the numbers of licenses, nor the fees payable for the same, for canners, or others, throughout the waters of British Columbia.

Yeas.—Messrs. Armstrong and Wilmot.

Mr. Higgins thinks a discrimination in favour of the northern canneries should be made.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

13. That the throwing of fish offal or dead fish, saw-dust, mill rubbish, or any deleterious substance into the rivers, or other waters frequented by fish is alike injurious to these waters, and to the inhabitants residing along the same; and therefore the laws relating to the prevention of offal and deleterious substances being thrown into such waters should be enforced in the interests of the community at large.

Yeas.—Messrs. Armstrong and Wilmot.

Nay.—Mr. Higgins, who suggest that offal should be thrown into the swift water of the river to float out into the sea.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

14. That it would be expedient for the improvement of the fisheries in British Columbia that additional fish hatcheries to the one now in existence should be built in well selected localities on the upper branches of the Fraser River—the evidence before this Commission being largely given in this line.

Unanimously agreed to.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

15. That the great destruction of herring now practised to supply a few crude oileries on the coast and elsewhere, should be prevented by departmental enactments, and thus avoid the too great and rapid depletion of an important factor as bait for carrying on the deep-sea fisheries of the British Columbian coast in the future.

Yeas.—Messrs. Armstrong and Wilmot.

Mr. Higgins defers an opinion, not having read the evidence.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

16. That the halibut fisheries on the coast of British Columbia, now assuming great importance from the successes which have attended the catches lately made and their introduction into the markets of Boston and elsewhere on the Atlantic coast, demand the husbanding care of the Government for the advancement of this new industry, which bids fair to give additional wealth to the inhabitants of British Columbia.

Unanimously agreed to.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

17. That the inclination on the part of the fishermen is to increase the killing capacity of the drift net by giving it greater depth than appears necessary for fairly legitimate fishing, and as the depth as shown now varies from 30 to 60 meshes; and in order to place all fishermen upon the same footing in their fishing operations, and to guard against too excessive destruction of the salmon—the drift net for sockeye should be limited to a depth not exceeding 50 meshes.

Yeas.—Messrs. Armstrong and Wilmot.

Mr. Higgins defers his judgment till evidence is read.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

18. That doubts having arisen with regard to the actual meaning of subsection 8, of section 8, chapter 95, of the Revised Statutes of Canada, it is desirable in the interests of river fishing in British Columbia, with reference to leaving portions of the river free from fishing, that not more than one-third of the river should be left open.

Unanimously agreed to.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

19. That the system now prevailing along the coast of killing vast numbers of dog-fish expressly for the use of the livers of said fish for oil purposes only, should be discontinued, unless the bodies of these fish are utilized in the same manner.

Unanimously agreed to.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

20. That salters and smokers of fish who carry on this specialty in curing fish for domestic or foreign markets, and not engaged in the fishing business in any other way, may be entitled to obtain two licenses upon the payment of a fee of \$20 for each license.

Unanimously agreed to.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

21. That a suggestion is made to the Department for the advisability for further protection of the fisheries, that a sufficient number of additional guardians should be appointed to enforce the fishery laws.

Unanimously agreed to.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

22. That it is expedient in the interests of the Fraser River fisheries that the early runs of the quinnat and sockeye salmon should be captured from which to obtain their ova for artificial breeding in the hatcheries.

Unanimously agreed to.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

23. That the introduction of shad, oysters and lobsters into the waters of British Columbia from the Atlantic coast is most desirable, and that the Department of Fisheries be requested to institute such means as will bring about this most desirable enterprise.

Unanimously agreed to.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

24. That whereas the native oysters is found in some localities along the British Columbian coast, and as they are becoming rapidly decimated by the action of a few fishermen and Indians regardless of consequences, it is desirable that the Fisheries Department should take speedy action to prevent their extermination by establishing proper close seasons and encouraging persons who may be desirous of entering into the business of oyster culture.

Unanimously agreed to.

(Sd.) S. W.,
Chairman.

The above sections, from 1 to 24, were duly considered by this Commission, and the records of their unanimous adoption, or otherwise, is agreed to by the Commissioners by their signatures which are hereto attached.

Witnessed by

(Sd.) CHARLES F. WINTER,
Secretary.

(Sd.) SAML. WILMOT, *Chairman.*

(Sd.) W. J. ARMSTRONG,

(Sd.) D. W. HIGGINS.

New Westminster, B.C., 19th March, 1892.

True copy of original document.

CHARLES F. WINTER,
Secretary B. C. Fishery Commission.

MINORITY REPORT.

The following minority report was subsequently submitted by Mr. Commissioner Higgins :—

To the Honourable CHARLES H. TUPPER,
Minister of Marine and Fisheries,
Ottawa.

SIR,—As a member of the fishery commission which lately sat and took evidence in this province, I beg most respectfully to call your attention to the fact that on at least two essential points I am at variance with my brother commissioners. My objections are noted at the foot of the respective paragraphs in the finding of the commission.

Before proceeding to state these objections, I cannot refrain from expressing regret that much valuable information bearing on the offal question was shut out by a majority vote of the commission, and consequently does not appear on the minutes of the proceedings. I felt the disappointment the more keenly for the reason that owing to official duties requiring my presence in the capital I was unable to be present when some of the evidence was taken. I have therefore been compelled to rely more particularly upon my own experience and observations and the evidence of medical men which I was fortunate enough to hear, to assist me in arriving at a conclusion as to the effects on the public health of the deposit of offal in the rivers of the province.

In my opinion the medical testimony does not support Mr. Wilmot's report of 1890, nor does it justify the finding of a majority of the commission. As you will have an opportunity of examining that evidence for yourself, I shall not refer to it at greater length.

So far as my own observation went of the condition of things along the line of the slough at Lander's on the Fraser River, I am strongly of opinion that the several cases of typhoid which occurred there last year are attributable to the drinking of the slough water by the inhabitants, said water being poisoned by the drainage from closets, kitchens and stables situated along the banks. I had a map prepared of the slough and its surroundings. This map was laid before the commission at Vancouver, sworn to, and handed to Mr. Winter for incorporation with the minutes. Upon referring to this map you will observe that forty-five establishments, including two hotels, discharge their sewerage into this slough. It is worthy of remark that typhoid was most prevalent in 1891, and that during that season the Delta Company, which has its cannery at the mouth of the slough, deposited no offal in the river, but sent it away to an oilery to be converted into oil and manure. Only on one occasion during the season of 1891 did any offal reach the slough, and then by the accidental collapse of the cannery floor. This was quickly repaired, and no more went into the river from that cannery.

While the commission were at Lander's, I procured a bottle of water from the slough. The tide was out, and the specimen was an exceedingly fine one—for the purpose. In colour it resembled strong paragonic. After being closely corked for three or four days it emits a smell that is closely allied to decayed wood. In fact, the water flows from the peat marshes of the Fraser, and is rendered more injurious by the addition of sewerage from the forty-five establishments referred to above. As to its taste I can give no report, as I did not venture to taste it in that way, but Mr. Wilmot, who drank a small portion, pronounced it excellent. I would not venture to say that Mr. Wilmot's subsequent sickness could be attributed to that draught of slough water, but is a remarkable coincidence that, although in an excellent condition of health up to that time, upon my return to the river a week later I found him scarcely recovered from a severe attack of illness.

I submitted my bottle of slough water for analysis by the Government Analyst at Victoria, and his report will be found among the minutes in Mr. Winter's possession.

My conclusion is that the water, even in its natural state, is unfit for use. When invaded by the sewerage mentioned, it becomes positively dangerous to life and should not be drunk by man or beast. For the condition of public health along the slough, I think from the medical and other testimony and from personal enquiries, that the throwing of offal into the river is not responsible, at least at Lander's in the year 1891. I can well understand, however, that the deposit of offal in large quantities along the river banks is offensive to sight and smell, and cannot conduce to a good sanitary condition. But myriads of the fish after spawning in the tributaries of the main river die. Their bodies lie festering along the banks until they disappear by the gradual process of decay or are carried along by a sudden rise of the river to find a resting place at some other point. The late Mr. Mowat estimated that only from 5 to 25 per cent of the salmon that ascend the river to spawn return to the sea. Other authorities say that after a salmon has spawned it has performed its mission and dies at once.

I am aware that Mr. Wilmot, basing his opinion on the characteristics of salmon in eastern rivers, believes that the salmon here when not caught or destroyed by accident or exhaustion, return to salt water. My own observation extending over a period of nearly 34 years, leads me to the opinion that the habits of salmon of the Pacific coast are not identical with those on the Atlantic side, in this respect at least, and that few if any go back to the sea. However, it is admitted by all authorities that countless numbers die in the upper streams and it is not claimed that the presence of so much decaying matter in the water has an injurious effect on the health of the inhabitants. Such being the case and having in view my experience with Lander's Slough water, I could not arrive at the same conclusion as my brother commissioners as to the evil effects of the deposit of offal in the river, although a matter of precaution it should not be dumped near the shore but rather towed out in scows and deposited in the swift water of the river, the tremendous current of which in the course of a few hours will sweep

such portions as have not been devoured by scavenger fish into the salt water where it will speedily disappear. If the nets are occasionally fouled by the offal (and the evidence shows that they are) the loss will fall on the canners and not on the individual fishermen. As the spawning grounds are many miles above the canneries they cannot be contaminated by the deposit of offal in the river.

The enquiry had not long proceeded before I became impressed with the belief that the number of licenses issued should not be restricted: that all British subjects who applied should be granted licenses, and that no person not actually engaged in fishing, canning, or freezing should be licensed. This course, if adopted, will put an end to the traffic in licenses which has been carried on, and while the individual fishermen will be amply protected, the canner will not be at his mercy.

I do not agree with the majority in prohibiting the use of the seines at the mouths of all rivers, having been convinced by the evidence of experienced fishermen that on some of the northern streams (notably the Mimpkish River and Low and Rivers' Inlet) fish cannot be taken in any other way in sufficient numbers to make the business profitable. Stress has been laid on the fact that at Mimpkish last year only 600 cases were put up, and it has been attempted to be shown that the small catch is attributable to the use of the seine. But how is the catch of 1890 (the largest since fishing began on that river) accounted for, the seine having been used there for some ten or twelve years.

I am not in accord with my brother commissioners in their determination to fix all licenses at an uniform rate of \$20, believing that some consideration should be shown to the northern canneries where no hatcheries have been established and where no expense has been incurred by the government. On the Fraser River the government have made a large expenditure in propagating salmon and in protecting the fisheries and until similar steps have been taken on the northern rivers it seems scarcely fair that the license fee should be the same.

I submit that the present is not the time when onerous regulations should be placed on the cannery business in this province. It is at present passing through a severe crisis, and I speak from knowledge obtained from the best authorities, when I say that no money has been made for the past two years by those engaged in the pursuit. The outlook for a market too is decidedly gloomy and the competition with the Alaskan pack is so keen that should your department impose regulations that would add to the burthens of our fishermen, the result would be disastrous. At this moment I hear that in consequence of the bad state of the salmon market an agreement has been come to by the canners to pack only one-half the usual number of cases during the coming season. As some \$2,500,000 are invested in the business on Fraser River alone, I leave you to imagine the effect so short a pack will have on the trade of that part of the province.

It is to be regretted when we consider the magnitude of the interests involved that the scope of the inquiry was so limited, and that the time at the disposal of the Commission did not admit of a more extended and exhaustive investigation. It would be a still more regrettable circumstance if, as the outcome of the Commission, regulations should be imposed that would hamper the canners to an extent that would practically drive the product from the English market.

I know that I need not point out to you the necessity of fostering this most important industry, and that you are keenly alive to all that concerns the welfare and advancement of the various interests embraced in your department, and I feel sure that the matters upon which I have ventured to touch may be safely left with you to adjust on a basis which shall be fair to all.

In conclusion, I must place on record my unqualified admiration at the grand results that have attended the establishment of salmon hatcheries here, and cannot help expressing the hope that the usefulness of that important branch will be extended in every possible way, so that every stream in the province shall enjoy the benefits that would certainly flow from the adoption of this most enlightened policy.

I have the honour to be, sir, yours obediently,

(Sd.) D. W. HIGGINS.

Victoria, B.C., 29th March, 1892.

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